FBIS DAILY REPORT

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*Soviet Union*

*Vol III No 070* *9 April 1980*

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TARASOV HITS LATEST WESTERN MBFR PROPOSALS

LD090847 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Apr 80 p 5 LD

[Correspondent I. Melnikov dispatch: "Vienna: Results of Another Round"]

[Text] Vienna, 3 April--The 20th round of the Vienna talks on the mutual reduction of armed forces and arms in central Europe has ended.

At a subsequent press conference the Soviet delegation's spokesman familiarized correspondents with the substance of the speech of Ambassador N.K. Tarasov, head of the Soviet delegation.

Even during this round, which took place in a complex international atmosphere, when the NATO leaders have begun implementing their policy of building up military preparations, the socialist countries' delegations, guided by their governments' principled policy line--the Soviet delegation head declared--made a big effort to achieve end results at the talks and thereby make a contribution to preserving and strengthening detente. A good businesslike basis for drafting the first mutually acceptable agreement, as is known, is provided by the socialist states' broad constructive proposals of 8 June and 30 November 1978 and 28 June 1979, which take many significant elements of the Western position into account and are in full accordance with the agreed aims and subject of the Vienna talks.

During this very round the socialist countries submitted proposals concerning an exchange of updated data on the troop strengths of all the states directly participating in the talks as of January 1980. The Western participants have not yet replied to this proposal.

The Soviet diplomat used specific examples to show that the West's proposals of 20 December 1979 do not contain any elements making it possible to bring the talks participants' viewpoints closer together. They merely cancel out the fruit of 6 years' joint work, as the West has essentially returned to the same positions which it held at the start of the Vienna talks. Again it all boils down to a substantial Soviet troop reduction--by 30,000 men--and a symbolic American troop reduction. And as for the troops of the FRG, Britain and other West European countries directly involved in the talks, which make up three-fourths of the NATO troop contingent in central Europe, under the "simplified" Western scheme they are not only not to be reduced but are not limited even to the present level.

The Soviet delegation head exposed the unequal nature of the terms imposed by the new Western proposals for reducing Soviet and U.S. ground forces. It was emphasized that they disregard the Soviet Union's ongoing unilateral reduction of its troops and arms in the GDR by 20,000 men, 1,000 tanks and a certain quantity of other military hardware. At the same time the West's representatives at the Vienna talks are closing their eyes to the current big buildup of the contingent of U.S. troops in central Europe, which has already considerably exceeded the figure of 13,000 men by which the West proposes to reduce U.S. troops.

N.K. Tarasov pointed out in conclusion that the socialist states' principled policy of reaching effective accords leading to a lower level of military confrontation in central Europe, while strictly observing the principle of undiminished security for both sides, is immutable.

It was announced at the press conference that the Vienna talks will resume in May.

SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE ADDRESSES GENEVA DISARMAMENT SESSION

LD080443 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1530 GMT 8 Apr 80 LD

[Excerpt] Geneva, 8 April (TASS)--Discussion started in the Disarmament Committee today on the question of ending the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament. The solution of that question is of exceptional importance for preventing the threat of nuclear war.

Since the very moment that nuclear weapons appeared the Soviet Union has consistently come out and continues to come out in favor of fully and unconditionally banning and destroying them.

Speaking at a session of the committee today, Viktor Israelyan, the USSR representative, stressed that since the chief danger to peace lies in the growing nuclear arms race unleashed by the Pentagon and NATO, central place should be given to efforts aimed at halting the arms race in that very sphere.

Noting that back in 1978 at a special session of the UN General Assembly on disarmament the USSR proposed that talks be started on ending the production of all types of nuclear weapons, gradually reducing their stockpiles and finally eliminating them, the Soviet delegate stressed the need for an immediate start of practical talks in order to draw up a corresponding international agreement.

The importance of the problem of nuclear disarmament is indisputable. The recent exacerbation of the international situation, the speaker said, not only prevents this important task from being removed from the agenda but on the contrary makes it even more urgent and pressing.

The Soviet representative stressed that questions of nuclear disarmament can and must be solved only on a mutual and agreed basis without damaging the security of any of the sides. Naturally, all nuclear powers should take part in talks on nuclear disarmament, he noted.

The urgency of solving the problem of nuclear disarmament was also stressed by (Tadesse Terrefa), the Ethiopian representative. The committee, he said, must get to grips in earnest with this very important question. We support unconditionally the proposal by the USSR and other socialist countries for ending the production of all types of nuclear weapons and for their destruction.

WITHDRAWAL OF ARMY CONTINGENT FROM GDR REPORTED

LD072148 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 2000 GMT 7 Apr 80 LD

[Excerpt] The Soviet Union has withdrawn another army contingent from the German Democratic Republic. People in Oschatz, near Leipzig, saw off the artillery contingent leaving for home. Numerous journalists, including Western newsmen, were present at the farewell meeting.

EUROPEAN CP DISARMAMENT MEETING INITIATIVE PRAISED

LD081321 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Apr 80 p 5 LD

[Vitaliy Semenov "Commentator's Column": "Timely and Important Initiative"]

[Text] A report was published a few days on the French Communist Party and the PZPR coming out with an initiative for convening a 28-29 April Paris meeting of communist and workers parties of Europe for peace and disarmament. This proposal is meeting with a positive response from the communist and workers parties of the Continent which genuinely strive to consolidate the cause of detente and is arousing great interest among the democratic and peace-loving forces and all people of good will.

The meeting of the communists of the socialist and capitalist countries of Europe will take place at a moment of extreme importance for the fate of the Continent. Aggressive imperialist circles, primarily the United States, are now making fierce attacks on the policy of detente. They wish to destroy everything positive that has been achieved by all European states in the past 10-15 years, to impose a policy of confrontation and to return the world to the times of the cold war. These circles are trying to turn Europe into an arena of unrestrained arms race and a powder keg. A dangerous step on this path was the NATO decision, taken under Washington pressure, to deploy new U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in various West European countries.

The peoples of the world will soon observe the 35th anniversary of the victory over Hiterlite fascism. The past reminds present generations how important it is to adopt timely measures to protect peace. Communists, as the most resolute and consistent peace champions and opponents of war, cannot be aloof from the problems facing the peoples in European countries.

Reflecting the mood and aspirations of the broadest masses, the communist and workers parties, both in the socialist and capitalist parts of Europe, come out for preserving the fruits of detente, to advance the cause of disarmament through negotiations based on equality and equal security of sides. Communists are ready to do everything necessary to successfully hold the Madrid meeting this year, to make their contribution to strengthening the basis of peace in Europe.

The desire to retreat is alien to communists. They are supporters of extensive joint action in the interests of strengthening peace. As in the past, they extend a hand to all people of good will, irrespective of their party affiliation, political or religious convictions or way of life, and urge them to join efforts in the name of these noble goals. There is no doubt that this appeal will be supported by peace-loving forces.

Soviet communists welcome the initiative of the French Communist Party and the PZPR and express confidence that the Paris meeting of communist and workers' parties will become an important stage in the struggle of Europe's peace-loving forces for strengthening peace and detente and against the danger of war.

LCY Not To Attend

LD090923 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Apr 80 p 4 LD

[TASS reports under the general headline "Replies to Invitation"]

[Text] Belgrade, 5 April--In an interview with TANJUG A. Grlickov, member of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, has stated that the LCY Central Committee Presidium has decided that the LCY will not take part in the Paris meeting of communist and workers parties for peace and disarmament.

Vienna, 5 April--A statement by Austrian Communist Party Chairman F. Muhri has been distributed here which says in particular: [paragraph continues]

The Austrian Communist Party welcomes the initiative of the French Communist Party and PZPR in holding in Paris on 28-29 April a meeting of European communist and workers parties for peace and disarmament. We have accepted the invitation and will take part in the meeting.

Marchais Comments

LD071124 Moscow TASS in English 1051 GMT 7 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Lisbon, April 7, TASS--The forthcoming meeting of Europe's communist and workers' parties will discuss questions of effective actions in favour of peace and disarmament, Georges Marchais, general secretary of the French Communist Party, said here. He said that the meeting participants would try to work out a joint stand on these questions. Georges Marchais pointed out that each party is free to decide whether to participate in the meeting.

Glazunov on Upcoming Meeting

LD081728 Moscow World Service in English 1300 GMT 8 Apr 80 LD

[Excerpts] The French and Polish communists have proposed that a conference of European communist and workers parties for peace and disarmament be convened in Paris at the end of this month. This initiative has evoked broad response. More from our commentator Viktor Glazunov:

It has become a practice with the communists to meet and discuss major problems of the communist movement and of international life. A new forum of the European communists is expected to be convened at a crucial time for the fate of the Continent. The NATO militarist circles, the American above all, have commenced on a policy that threatens to turn Europe into a sphere of unrestrained arms race. In this context NATO's decision to deploy a new system of American nuclear missiles in Western Europe seems to be particularly dangerous. There is an attempt to bring Europe back to the cold war times and destroy all those positive trends that have been achieved on the Continent in the last 10 to 15 years. All this may really happen unless this dangerous Atlantic policy is brought to a halt.

The communists cannot sit idle under the circumstances. The purpose of the forthcoming meeting in Paris is to help find ways for activating the relaxation policy. The keynote of the Paris meeting will be peace and disarmament. The communists there will contrast their program of securing peace through disarmament with the NATO policy of limitless arms race and confrontation.

The communists, however, are not going to campaign for peace and for curbing the arms race within their own closed ranks alone: They are for joining efforts with all the sections of the peoples who cherish the ideals of peace regardless of their party affiliations, political views or religious beliefs. This doesn't mean, however, that there can be no exchange of opinion over the problems of peace and disarmament between the communists themselves. As the publication of the Central Committee of the Greek Communist Party, RIZOSPASTIS, points out, the exchange of opinion between the communist parties, creates more favorable conditions for a dialog and joint activity with other political, public and religious groups.

As for the Soviet communists they have always favored joint actions in the interests of peace. They expect the Paris meeting to give a fresh stimulus to such efforts.

TROYANOVSKIY ADDRESSES SECURITY COUNCIL ON PALESTINE

LD082014 Moscow TASS in English 1833 GMT 8 Apr 80 LD

[Text] New York, April 8, TASS--The UN Security Council has resumed the discussion of the Palestinian issue in connection with the Israeli incessant violations of the rights of the Arab people of Palestine.

The USSR's permanent representative at the United Nations Oleg Troyanovskiy, speaking in the discussion, has said that the conflict situation in the Middle East will not only persist in the future but it will take on point [as received] unless it causes eliminated, and unless the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people are restored.

Pointing out that Tel Aviv openly and cynically pursues the course of systematic seizure of foreign lands, the Soviet representative has emphasized that Israel would not have dared to arrogantly disregard the opinion of the international community, to openly ignore the Security Council's demands, had it not been for military, economic, political and other support from the overseas which is being given in ever growing proportions. Blocking the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Arab people of Palestine, the United States prevents a fair Middle East settlement, establishment of a durable peace in the region, said Oleg Troyanovskiy.

PRAVDA REPORTS VALLETTA CONFERENCE ON IMPERIALISM

LD090739 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Mar 80 p 4 LD

[PRAVDA and TASS special correspondents V. Peresada and A. Surikov dispatch: "A Rebuff to Imperialism"]

[Excerpts] Valletta, 30 March--The international conference against imperialist bases and for security and cooperation in the Mediterranean has been in progress for 3 days in the Maltese capital. A common thought is clearly perceptible in the delegates' speeches: The rebuff to the intrigues of imperialism must be intensified, and the lies and slander by which it tries to conceal its aggressive designs must be exposed.

The participants in the forum warmly greeted the Afghan delegate 'Abdol Sami (Gafari), who recounted the Afghan peoples struggle to consolidate the gains of the April revolution.

There are many reasons behind the anti-Soviet uproar over Afghanistan, said 'Abd al-Jalil Gilan, representative of Democratic Yemen. By expiating on the imaginary "Soviet threat," the imperialist forces are trying to divert attention from their own aggressive acts in the Near and Middle East and from their plans to control the regions oil resources. The true cause of the tension and the genuine threat to the independent countries and peoples stem not from the mythical "threats" invented by Western propaganda but from the totally real actions of the U.S. Government.

REPORTAGE, COMMENT ON U.S.-IRANIAN SITUATION CONTINUES

Lack of Patience, Restraint

LD081248 Moscow TASS in English 1235 GMT 8 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 8, TASS--The United States President Carter made a statement on taking a number of new measures against the Islamic Republic of Iran and its people. He announced the breaking of diplomatic relations with Iran by the United States. The Iranian Embassy and consulates in the USA are to be closed down and the Iranian diplomatic and consular personnel have been declared persona non grata and must leave the country within twenty four hours.

Carter went on to say that he is putting into effect sanctions prohibiting the export of essentially all commodities including food and medicines from the USA to Iran. The President is trying to cover up the arbitrariness with regard to Iran by the prestige of the United Nations Organization. Resorting to a gross forgery he asserts that a possibility of economic sanctions against Iran corresponds to the UN Security Council's resolution of January 13 this year, though it is a matter of common knowledge that the resolution was not adopted by the council and is non-existent.

President Carter gave an instruction to make a formal inventory of the Iranian assets which were previously frozen in the United States. Matters are being virtually steered to legalizing the confiscation of the property belonging to Iran and to creating a semblance of a legal basis enabling American citizens and monopolies to make any claims against the Iranian Government and have them satisfied. Carter's statement is an added proof that the USA has not only failed to think about returning the national riches which the former shah took away from Iran, but that it itself intends to continue the policy of plunder with regard to the Iranian people.

The question of the true causes of the straining of relations between the United States and Iran is being passed over in silence in the President's statement. The leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran suggested that the United States officially dissociate itself from its previous stand of political, economic and military interference in the country's internal affairs and enable the Iranian people to manage their problems themselves. With good reason it demanded the extradition of the shah for the crimes which he committed against the Iranian people. The leadership of new Iran demanded and continues insisting on the return of the billions-worth wealth which belongs to the country and its people and which was plundered by the shah and his family.

Instead of going to a consideration and satisfaction of these legitimate demands, Washington embarked upon the provocative road of concealment of the shah and military threats against Iran itself. The biggest naval force of the United States has been concentrated in the western part of the Indian Ocean and in the Persian Gulf. Other military demonstrations are also being held there with the aim of military-political blackmail against Iran and other countries of the region.

In the light of these and other real facts it becomes perfectly clear that the question of the holding of the U.S. diplomats in Iran stands on an utterly different plane than the United States President is trying to present it in his statement. Carter lays responsibility for such a state of affairs on the Leader of the Iranian Revolution Khomeyni and the Revolutionary Council, and accuses the Government of Iran of hiding behind the militants occupying the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

However, the assertion that the Iranians refuse to release the U.S. hostages is wrong, since the Iranian leadership repeatedly, including in the most recent days, reaffirmed its readiness to immediately solve the question as soon as the USA shows a constructive approach to Iran's legitimate wishes.

The U.S. Government's actions are guided by undisguised imperialist interests, and not by concern for the U.S. Embassy personnel. It is obviously in quest of a plea for heightening tension in the area of the Near and Middle East, which is evidenced by Carter's statement that the Iranians' refusal to satisfy Washington's ultimatum "will involve increasingly heavy costs to Iran", and that the USA may resort to "other action". A White House spokesman, explaining the President's plans, said the use of any crisis-solving means the USA has at its disposal, including the use of force is not ruled out.

The United States President's statement contains the words "patience and restraint". However, the present administration of Washington, judging by the step-up of U.S. hostility with regard to Iran, is lacking exactly these useful qualities.

## Naval Blockade Considered

NC081257 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 8 Apr 80 NC

[Text] According to press reports, the White House is once again considering blockading Iran by naval forces. ABC TV says that this step might be taken later on. UPI reports that a group of congressmen visiting one of the U.S. aircraft carriers, the Coral Sea, in the Oman Sea have praised the military preparedness of the U.S. Armed Forces stationed near the Iranian coast. Senator Biden said that these forces are under constant training and it appears they will start military activities in the next 4 or 5 hours. The U.S. Navy quick reaction fleet led by the aircraft carrier Constellation has entered the western part of the Pacific Ocean and is heading toward the Indian Ocean. AFP reports that this U.S. fleet will apparently join the largest U.S. armada in the Oman Sea.

## Lebedeva Criticizes Sanctions

NC081928 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 8 Apr 80 NC

[Vera Lebedeva commentary]

[Text] Dear friends: The severance of diplomatic relations with Iran announced by the United States is part of vast anti-Iranian activities which U.S. imperialists have started and part of the flames that they are fanning. This extreme and threatening step taken by Carter shows that in Washington they do not intend to ease Iran-U.S. tension on the basis of fairness and justice. With this act they want to break the will of the Iranian people, force them into subservience to the United States and divert them from the anti-imperialist path paved by the revolution.

In Washington they hope that the severing of diplomatic relations with Iran will give a free hand to U.S. imperialism and create opportunities for U.S. imperialism to act with flagrantly and with more impudence toward the republican regime in Iran.

The United States of America, which is trying to portray Iran as a country endangering American interests, is, by taking extreme measures against Iran, proving that its objective is to establish dominance in the Persian Gulf, and that it [word indistinct] its efforts to impose its dominance on Iran and other countries of the region. In other words, U.S. imperialists are trying to create a new platform for the implementation of their hegemonistic policy in the Near East in the period following the Iranian revolution.

It is not accidental that simultaneously with the severing of diplomatic relations the White House is discussing the setting up of a military blockade of Iran. It is not accidental either that Carter said he is prepared to take stricter measures than the severance of diplomatic relations with Iran. These are not mere words. For some time now, the United States of America, behind the curtain of allegations about the "danger of Iran", has been intensifying its military presence in the Persian Gulf. U.S. warships, including aircraft carriers, are patrolling the Persian Gulf. In addition to the American officers permanently assigned to American bases another 24,000 American officers have been sent to this area. The Pentagon is hurriedly expanding the military base on (?Masirah) Island which is a support base for the American broadswords in the region and which allows the establishment of control of the oil exports through the Strait of Hormuz, and has started the rearming of this base. Washington's envoys to this area are seeking new military bases and trying to concoct a new military bloc to replace CENTO, which was thrown into the trashcan of history by the Iranian revolution.

As TASS stresses, in light of these and other facts it becomes perfectly clear that the problem of the arrest of American diplomats in Iran should be regarded in a context other than that which President Carter is trying to present. TASS announces that the U.S. Government's acts were in no way a result of sympathy toward the U.S. Embassy employees, but were aimed at protecting overt imperialist interests.

Carter's remarks that the Iranian refusal to accept Washington's ultimatum will be more costly for Iran prove this fact. While announcing the severance of diplomatic relations with Iran, Carter swore that he will overcome the Iranian-American crisis and save the so-called national honor. But the U.S. President again did not consider the fact that the conditions which he has presented for the solution of the crisis is not acceptable to Iran. Of what U.S. national honor can one speak? Ignoring and not considering the new phenomena in Iran which overthrew the shah's oppression and the use of old colonialist methods were not respectable, but were America's disgrace. TASS has characterized the American Government's present measures against Iran as true obstinacy.

Dear friends, it is natural that under present circumstances all progressive forces of the present age, namely the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist camp, support Iran's just acts, as they supported your country during the popular, anti-imperialist and national liberation revolution. I thank you for paying attention to my commentary.

## Hostages Used for Buildup

LD082342 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1800 GMT 8 Apr 80 LD

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] President Carter has taken the decision to break off diplomatic relations between the United States and Iran, the withdrawal of all Iranian diplomats from Washington and other American ties and the suspension of American-Iranian trade. Thus the Carter administration has taken another step along the road of intimidating Iran. On the eve of this decision, Washington ordered the move of another unit of American warships, including the aircraft carrier Constellation, to the Indian Ocean to a position close to the gulf. These warships will join the other 30 American warships which have been sent close to the shores of Iran during the past few months. The Carter administration seeks to justify the concentration of such vast U.S. military power by the so-called need to release the American diplomats detained in Tehran on charges of spying and practising subversive activities against the Iranian revolution.

In fact Washington is seeking to benefit as much as possible from the detention of its diplomats so that it can justify the expansion of its military presence in the gulf region. A great deal has been learned from the facts which confirm that the story of the detention of American diplomats was but an excuse to begin to implement the plans laid down in Washington long ago for the retrieval of those military strategic positions which the United States had lost as a result of the successes of the liberation movement of the anti-imperialist peoples of the Middle East.

It must be recalled that in 1974 the then defense secretary, Schlesinger, who shortly before that was the U.S. secretary for energy, called for the use of armed force to punish the Arabs for their endeavor to impose national control over their oil wealth. He proposed the seizure of Arab oilfields by armed force. It goes without saying that such a matter requires a vast military presence near the targets of the likely attack. The Pentagon believed that if the United States seized something it was only natural that this must be kept, a fact which requires the presence of permanent armed units stationed at special bases. As the New York TIMES has stated, the Pentagon 2 years ago prepared a plan for the so-called military formations in the gulf. This document explains in detail the U.S. actions in this region. It is noted that this is being hastily carried out. This applies, for instance, to the question of extending the existing military bases and building new ones in certain countries of the Middle East and eastern Africa. The main aim of the establishment of such bases is to serve as a staging point and arsenal for the units of the infamous rapid deployment force. Initially this force was set at 100,000 officers and men, but lately the Pentagon is persisting on doubling this number. Consequently it is inevitable that more military bases and ports are secured for the stationing of U.S. Marines and air and naval forces.

It is clear that the U.S. military bases are not built on others' territories just for several months or several years, but for a longer period, bearing in mind that the building and equipping of such bases takes years and requires vast expenditure.

The military activity of the United States in and around the gulf is determined by Washington merely considering these regions as fields for their vital interests, particularly with regard to securing from there hundreds of millions of tons of oil. It is noticed that these interests of American imperialism are long-term interests. In order to preserve these imperialist interests, the United States resorts to armed force.

Accordingly we can rightly say that the United States is seeking to consolidate its vast military presence in and around the gulf region not just as a measure to achieve a short-term aim, if one can use such a term, but to achieve the possibility of holding the sword over the heads of the peoples and countries of the Middle East for as long as possible; and through this the American imperialists would dictate to them.

Kornilov on 'Threats'

LD082234 Moscow TASS in English 2138 GMT 8 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 9, TASS--TASS political news analyst Yuriy Kornilov writes:

Thus, a stream of American threats against Iran, which has lately intensified, produced Washington's another step to escalate the conflict: President Carter announced the severance of diplomatic relations between the United States and Iran. The U.S. finance secretary was ordered to introduce immediately discriminatory "sanctions" to prohibit U.S. exports to Iran. A certain "program of suits" against Iran is being drawn up. In short, a whole series of measures was put into play with the aim to intimidate the revolutionary Iran, to make it bow to imperialism...

As usual, relevant "propaganda support" was given to these openly aggressive actions: Declaring the severance of diplomatic relations, J. Carter tried in every way to present things so that Iran is allegedly responsible for what is taking place, and the United States, as he said, acted in the course of the conflict with exceptional patience and restraint.

But howwas that shown? Was that shown in the fact that Washington, contrary to the legitimate demands of the Iranian people, is stubborn in its desire to "save" from a fair trial the former shah, that international criminal, who according to Ayatollah Khomeyni, "physically destroyed and mutilated hundreds of thousands Iranians and plundered the country"? Or in the fact that the United States exerts upon Iran a diplomatic pressure unprecedented for its insolence and also economic pressure, and it does not stop even at having "a free hand" or, to put it bluntly, at plundering Iranian assets now in American banks? Or maybe in the fact that huge squadrons of ships of the U.S. Navy have been drawn and are being drawn to the waters close to Iran, that threats "to teach" Iran continue coming unabated from Washington, and the American press prints many bellicose statements by Pentagon and other "hawks" who call for using a punitive club against Iran, and "if expedient", also a nuclear "club"?

Having broken off diplomatic relations with Iran, Washington itself reaffirmed that the present American administration does not stake at a settlement, but it stakes at fanning up the conflict that the White House, posing as a "friend of Islam", really acts as an enemy of the young Islamic republic. The U.S. President said in his statement that if the present steps do not lead to the prompt release of the hostages, other means might prove to be necessary. Should one specify what is implied? "Other means"--these are American aircraft-carriers, and there are a great many of them in the Persian Gulf, these are American bombers in a state of readiness and American guns aimed at Iran and other oil producing states of the region....

It is indicative that Washington's current attacks on Iran coincide in time with another round of American-Egyptian and American-Israeli negotiations, one of the aims of which is to strengthen the tripartite "military alliance" directed against Iran and Arab oil producing states. In actual fact, this is an attempt on the part of Washington, acting hand in hand with the Israeli aggressor and pro-Zionist Egypt, to revive the imperial colonial-seizure policy, to strike a blow on the Iranian revolution, to draw Iran again into the orbit of its policy, by depriving it of its genuine independence.

All the so-called demarches, being undertaken by the United States against Iran, including the severance of diplomatic relations between the two countries, are a very dangerous tactics. The aim of this tactics is to create the impression that the United States has exhausted "all-peaceful means" of settlement of the conflict and has no way out, but the use of force. But the time of the "gun-boat policy" is over, gentlemen! Those who nowadays make a stake on the use of force in politics, on pressure and blackmail should be ready that such an aggressive course will turn against themselves.

ALLEGATIONS ON CHEMICAL WARFARE IN AFGHANISTAN BLASTED

LD082036 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1602 GMT 8 Apr 80 LD

["Without any Proof"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 8 April--TASS commentator Vyacheslav Kuznetsov writes: With surprising stubborness, and without any proof, the Carter admininistration has beeen continuing to assert for several months that the Soviet troop contingent in Afghanistan is using toxins.

The groundlessness of these inventions is now starting to be recognized not only by the American press, but even by U.S. officials, who prefer for quite understandable reasons to remain anonymous.

However, this did not prevent H. Brown, the U.S. defense secretary, in a speech on Monday at the Los Angeles Council of World Affairs, from asserting that allegedly there is "increasing evidence that the Soviet Union is using paralyzing gas in Afghanistan" and that "according to some reports" the USSR "may be using lethal gas there." What does Harold Brown use to support these allegations? He cites the evidence of "various people." Other administration officials in exactly the same way quote anpnymous "witnesses" or some "reports."

The Soviet Union has stated on more than one occasion that it has never used chemical weapons anywhere, including in Afghanistan, and that such an allegation is a blatant lie. As the New York TIMES recently pointed out, "despite persistent reports that Soviet troops have used nerve gas in Afghanistan, analysts state that so far there is no definite proof that such substances were used."

UPI on Monday also pointed out, quoting officials, that the United States had no proof that toxic gases had been used in Afghanistan. UPI does not hide the fact that high-ranking U.S. officials throw "information" at the press about the use of chemical weapons by Soviet troops in Afghanistan in order to draw "public attention" to these inventions and to "blacken the role" of the Soviet military contingent in Afghanistan.

It is precisely this that is the real aim of the anti-Soviet fuss raised by Washington. But even famous names are no longer capable of inspiring confidence in the groundless inventions of the U.S. administration.

PRAVDA: CONGRESSIONAL HEARING ON ARMS SALES TO PRC

LD090701 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Apr 80 p 5 LD

[TASS report: "Military Cooperation Being Organized"]

[Text] Washington, 2 April--Special hearing have been held in the U.S. Congress regarding the decision of J. Carter's administration to authorize deliveries of certain types of military equipment to China.

Explaining the administration's stance, R. Holbrooke, U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, declared that the decision that has been taken is dictated by Washington's interest "in a powerful, strong and friendly China." "Since we no longer need to organize and deploy our forces in the expectation of conflict with one another."

The State Department spokesman did not conceal the fact that one of the main aims of U.S. Defense Secretary H. Brown's January trip to China was to "try to broaden our strategic dialog with China." He stressed that this visit "laid the foundation for further exchanges between the war departments" of the two countries.

R. Holbrooke did not rule out the possibility of deliveries of American military material to Beijing outside the framework of the administration's published list of goods with military applications authorized for export to China. G. Dinneen, U.S. principal deputy under secretary of defense, declared that the aforementioned list, which, as is well known, envisages the sale to China of C-130 military transport aircraft, telecommunications systems, early-warning radar systems, and so forth, "opens up new opportunities" in the sphere of military cooperation between Washington and Beijing.

The U.S. administration's course of supplying Beijing with American equipment that may be used for military purposes is causing concern in certain congressional circles.

BARATOV NOTES CONTRADICTORY REPORTS ON U.S. TROOPS IN SOMALIA

LD071738 Moscow TASS in English 1622 GMT 7 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 7, TASS--TASS commentator Nikolay Baratov writes:

Western news agencies report the most contradictory information about a possibility of American troops' using military facilities located on the territory of Somalia. Last Thursday U.S. Defense Under-Secretary Robert Komer said at the U.S. Congress that the Pentagon intended to use bases in Somalia, Oman and Kenya for expanding air and naval presence of the United States in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf.

The President of Somalia Mohamed Siad Barre who quite recently declared the need of "liquidating military bases in the area of the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf", admitted that "the Government of Somalia agreed in principle to grant the United States the right to use a naval and an air base on its territory".

And the FRANCE PRESSE reported today that the Somali Minister of National Security Ahmad Sulayman Abdullah, now on a visit in Kuwait, denied the statements to the effect that the United States had been granted permission to use the Somali naval base in Berbera.

An interview of the Somali Information Minister Mohamed Adnan Sheikh was published at the same time in the Kuwaiti magazine (AL-AQZA). In the interview it is said that Washington offered Somalia "fantastic sums of money" along with a large quantity of arms in exchange for military facilities. But the minister said, "Somalia kept its dignity and refused".

Who is to be believed--the American military men, the president of Somalia or his ministers and what lies behind these endless statements, denials, and counter-denials? One thing is clear--the United States is trying hard to get new strongpoints to further its aggressive designs and for interference into internal affairs of the countries of the Middle East and the Indian Ocean basin. It is also clear that they in Mogadishu understand that negotiations on cooperation with the Pentagon are very much unpopular in African and Arab states. Oil-producing countries of the region, which regard extensive military preparations of the United States to be a threat to their sovereignty and also to peace and stability in the Middle East and in the area of the Indian Ocean, might terminate economic aid to Somalia. This apprehension seemingly explains the endless manoeuvres of the Somali leaders who, there is every indication, are not against granting the Somali territory as a strongpoint for the American military.

POLICY OF LATIN AMERICA 'MILITARIZATION' VIEWED

LD081255 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Mar 80 p 3 LD

[Yu. Stroyev commentary: "For Some a Carrot, for Others a Stick"]

[Text] Almost 15 years after the United States introduced its troops of occupation into the Dominican Republic and overthrew the government of Colonel Camano, the Pentagon has staged a new military show off the shores of that country. Helicopters and Harrier VTCL fighter-bombers took off from the helicopter carrier Nassau and headed for Santo Domingo. A few minutes later the marine force landed by them was already conducting "show exercises." Then the Nassau dropped anchor opposite the capital's seafront so that every passer-by could see for himself the steel might of this floating fortress.

Thus Adm Harry Train, commander in chief of U.S. Armed Forces in the Atlantic zone and supreme commander in chief of NATO armed forces in that region, began his "friendly visit" to the Dominican Republic with a show of military force. Going ashore, the admiral told journalists "in confidence" that the United States has decided to reinforce its military presence in the Caribbean zone and the Nassau's voyage pursues precisely this purpose. The American hawk's belated "revelation" merely elicited a smile from newsmen. For numerous facts have long been attesting eloquently that the Pentagon is feverishly building up its military might in the Caribbean.

Last fall the headquarters of the American Caribbean Task Force aimed at Central American and Caribbean countries was set up at Key West in Florida, 145 km from Cuba's shores. One military exercise after another is conducted in this region. Last October 2,000 U.S. Marines with air and tank support landed ostentatiously at Guantanamo Base, which the United States retains on Cuban territory.

In the first days of the new year major maneuvers began in the Caribbean involving 28 warships and landing ships, including the aircraft carrier Saratoga--maneuvers which ended by landing 6,000 infantrymen in the Panama Canal Zone. The ("Rideks I-80") exercises were held in conjuction with Britain and the Netherlands. Nor does the Pentagon forget about strengthening and modernizing its ground bases in certain Latin American countries.

President Carter's administration attempts to veil its overt policy of Latin American militarization behind a "diplomacy of smiles." Each month another American emissary sets off on his travels around the continent, promising generous economic and military aid to his southern neighbors, while in exchange....in exchange, as (Franklin Drammer), a high-ranking U.S. State Department spokesman, admitted, the Latin American governments must support the aggressive U.S. policy. For example, American General Robert Schweitzer, who was in the Dominican Republic some 6 weeks ago, openly declared that the United States is prepared to give that country any necessary "assistance," including military aid, in order together to oppose the "communist threat." In return, as PRENSA LATINA reported, he demanded that the Pentagon be granted territory in Samana and (Banada) provinces for the creation of military bases there. Perhaps Admiral Train's visit was meant precisely to show clearly the U.S. readiness to "help the Dominican people" and to press the country's government to reply to the American military's request.

How can all this be squared with the statement which President Carter made at the end of January? Then, addressing a group of journalists in the White House, he said that there is no force in the Caribbean region threatening U.S. security and that he cannot call it "vitally important" for American interests....the point is that the attention of American capital has long been drawn to the small Caribbean island states rich in natural resources and cheap manpower. However, socialist Cuba's growing prestige, the victory of the revolution in Nicaragua, the progressive transformations in Grenada and Jamaica, the attainment of independence by Saint Lucia and other states and their anti-imperialist course are seriously shaking U.S. positions. To bring back the "happy times" of imperialism's undivided rule, to prevent democratic transformations in Caribbean countries and to drag them into its aggressive plans--this is Washington's true aim. For this the old "carrot and stick" method has once again been employed under cover of the bedraggled slogan of the need to "purge the region of the cummunist danger." But times have changed; Latin Americans understand that the true threat to their independence is the aggressive essence of American imperialism. And they are fully resolved to struggle for their full liberation.

CARIBBEAN BECOMES ARENA OF U.S. 'PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE'

LD031325 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Mar 80 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[Unattributed "Rejoinder" from Yu. Romanov roundup "The Day Worldwide": "Smokescreen"]

[Text] The Caribbean has recently become an arena of intensive psychological warfare, waged by the United States.

American propaganda is intimidating countries in the region with the danger allegedly threatening them from the direction of Cuba and...Grenada, a little island republic with a population of 110,000 people. You see, the overthrow of Gairy's dictatorship in that country a year ago, America's NEWSWEEK magazine assures us, "introduced a sinister note of instability" in the Caribbean. And the fact that several dozen Cuban physicians and specialists in agriculture and fishing are working in Grenada is assessed by the magazine as a staggering threat to international peace. What has made NEWSWEEK magazine suddenly take fright? This can easily be explained if you take into account the new U.S. adventures being prepared in the Caribbean. The ballyhoo around the invented "threat from Grenada" must, according to U.S. imperialist circles' plans, serve as a kind of smokescreen for the preparations being carried out at a forced rate for an armed intervention by the United States and also by the reactionary military of Guatemala and Honduras against El Salvador.

They are trying to convince the population of the region's countries that unceremonious U.S. interference in their internal affairs is vitally necessary for their own good. Surely it would be simpler to assume that it is all a question of poorly concealed and vain attempts by Washington to revive the times when it could dictate its will to the Caribbean countries without particular concern for a propaganda cover.

PRAVDA CITES U.S. CRITICISMS OF CARTER POLICIES

LD091425 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 80 p 5 LD

[TASS reports under the general headline: "Under Fire"]

[Text] Washington, 31 March--The Carter administration's course of undermining detente and exacerbating international tension is coming under increasing criticism from the U.S. press and public. Far from supporting Washington, the well-known Washington POST observer J. Kraft stresses, our partners in Europe and Asia are taking the opportunity to improve business contacts with the Soviet Union and the Arab oil-producing countries. As a result, he points out, it is not clear whether the Carter administration will be able to achieve any progress in what was previously regarded as its diplomatic success--the signing of the Egypt-Israel peace treaty.

San Francisco, 31 March--The general opinion, both in the United States and abroad, Professor of Political Science H. Morgenthau points out in the Los Angeles TIMES, is that U.S. foreign policy is in a sorry state. Listing all the misunderstandings, mistakes, inconsistencies and equivocations which characterize the Carter administration's record over the last 3 years would be a tiring business. The most recent and most telling example was the recent U.S. vote on the UN resolution condemning Israel. The Camp David agreements, the writer goes on, duck the really important problems--the future of Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip--and defer the settlement of the Palestinian question. The complexity of these problems, which Camp David failed to solve, is causing serious concern for the stability of the entire Near East in the future.

New York, 31 March--Carter's policy, which consists of showing the world an iron fist in a velvet glove, is causing him difficulties, New York TIMES observer J. Reston points out. To win votes Carter is trying to allay the fears of pro-Israeli Jews in the United States, manipulating his budget, and making out that he cannot leave the White House to take part in the debate on the country's most urgent problems. Carter, the writer adds, does not even have the confidence of his own Democratic majority in Congress or the confidence of his allies.

IZVESTIYA SCORES JAPANESE SUPPORT FOR PRC FOREIGN POLICY

LD081241 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Apr 80 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[M. Demchenko article under the rubric "Comments to the Point": "'Consultations' Beijing-Style"]

[Text] "Working consultations" were held in Tokyo recently between representatives of the Japanese and PRC foreign ministries--the first such meeting since the signing of the so-called Japanese-Chinese "peace and friendship treaty" in August 1978.

Bilateral consultations are a customary business in diplomatic practice. However, the Tokyo meeting went beyond the framework of such consultations and was used to impose upon the Japanese side Beijing's foreign policy course which, as is well known, is of an anti-Soviet orientation. PRC Vice Foreign Minister Han Nianlong who headed the Chinese delegation both during the "working consultations" and the meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister S. Okita, frequently advocated taking measures to "isolate the Soviet Union" and urged the Japanese to adopt "a firm stand with regard to the USSR."

It should be noted that in addition to using the Tokyo "consultations" for hiking the anti-Soviet campaign the Chinese delegation was also pursuing another goal at the talks--expanding ties between the two countries in the military sphere. Beijing, which formerly sharply condemned the Japanese-U.S. military alliance and the militarism resurrected in Japan, has recently turned to approval of this alliance. Appeals are frequently heard from the buildup of the might of the Japanese army and the galvanization of Japanese-Chinese cooperation.

To all appearances these appeals of Beijing's are meeting with a response not only among Japanese militarist circles but also in the Japanese Government which, in violation of the country's constitution, is building up appropriations for the army from one year to the next and expanding contacts with China in the military sphere. According to Japanese press reports in just 2 years--from April 1977 through April 1979--15 Japanese military delegations have visited China. The exchange of military delegations between Japan and China has recently been activated still further. Attention is attracted by the fact that while military contacts between Tokyo and Beijing were formerly effected by the Japanese side at the level of retired high-ranking military men, now this level has been raised considerably--high-ranking functionaries from Japan's National Defense Agency have become frequent visitors to China.

At the talks and meetings which the Japanese military delegations are having in Beijing, the newspapers have reported, a broad range of questions is being discussed, from arms deliveries to joint operations by the two countries' armed forces.

China is seeking increasingly persistently to acquire military technology and combat equipment in Japan. The first secret talks on this issue, it has been known, were held in 1975 when Japan was visited by a Chinese delegation to familiarize itself with the machine building industry. It handed to a number of Japanese companies engaged in arms production a list of products which China would like to buy from them, including missiles, tanks of various types, firing control systems, troop control systems and similar items. China has already concluded a long-term contract on "technical cooperation" with the Mitsubishi firm which is called "Japan's arsenal."

In embarking on the expansion of ties with Beijing the Japanese ruling circles and monopolies are hoping to use China as an advantageous market for selling their goods. Here it looks as though they are closing their eyes to the fact that the Beijing leadership's main goal in developing trade and economic and military ties with Japan and other capitalist countries consists in obtaining funds for modernizing the Chinese Army and procuring new combat equipment for it. [paragraph continues]

Those countries which are helping China to supply its army with modern weapons are evidently disregarding the fact that Beijing has long been elaborating military strategic plans in pursuing its own hegemonistic aims both on a global scale and in the Far East region.

It is natural that the states which are Japan's neighbors are voicing serious concern at the expansion of Japanese-Chinese ties and Beijing's attempts to drag Tokyo into its strategy, which has been manifested in particular during the Tokyo consultations. The Japanese Government's support for the Chinese foreign policy course can only cause serious harm not only to peace in the Far East but also to the security of Japan itself.

PRAVDA CITES NODONG SINMUN ON DANGERS OF MANEUVERS

LD090823 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Apr 80 p 5 LD

[Dispatch by unnamed correspondent under the general headline "Fraternal Newspapers: Day's News": "Dangerous Compact"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 3 April--Speaking in parliament a few days ago, the newspaper NODONG SINMUN writes today, Japanese Prime Minister Ohira declared that if his country and South Korea held joint military maneuvers, this would not be a violation of the Japanese Constitution. Hosoda, chief of the Japanese National Defense Agency, has also made a similar statement.

The newspaper points out that these statements are nothing but an attempt to legalize the holding of joint maneuvers by the "Self-Defense Forces" and South Korea's puppet army. They also attest that the military compact between Japan and South Korea is entering a very serious stage.

Recalling the current contacts between working groups in North and South Korea to prepare for a meeting between the prime ministers of the two parts of the country, NODONG SINMUN points out that Ohira's statement on the holding of joint Japanese-South Korean maneuvers is aimed at creating new obstacles in the way of the country's reunification and provides, in the final analysis, for the inclusion of both Japan and South Korea in the system of U.S. military preparations.

BRIEFS

JAPANESE EXHIBITION--A Japanese exhibition of manufactured goods opened in Nakhodka yesterday. Some 19 Japanese firms are participating in the exhibition, which will open in 4 days. A large group of representatives from nearly all krays and oblasts in the Far East which participate in coastal trade have arrived in Nakhodka to familiarize themselves with goods displayed at the exhibition. [Vladivostok Domestic Service in Russian 0235 GMT 8 Apr 80 OW]

AFGHAN INTERIOR MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON USE OF POISON GAS

LD081658 Moscow TASS in English 1617 GMT 8 Apr 80 LD

["The Dirty Business of Michael Barry"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, April 8, TASS--LITERATURNAYA GAZETA calls Michael Barry "a highly professional misinformer and provocateur" who is assiduously spreading primitive lies about the stay of Soviet troops in Afghanistan. If one would believe the French newspaper LE MONDE, the American CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR and Western news agencies, in Afghanistan "people are being poisoned from helicopters by gases of three varieties and are being burnt by napalm."

LITERATURNAYA GAZETA asked TASS correspondent in Kabul Sergey Solovyev to check the facts. It publishes today the correspondent's report from the village of Shin Kowrok, Konarha district, along the border with Pakistan, which has been mentioned by Michael Barry who alleged that following the use of tear gas by Soviet troops in the village of Shin Kowrok 13 persons had died of suffocation.

"The first house where we knocked belonged to the sixty-five year old Hassan Jan", the correspondent writes. "Well, I also heard of what you are asking. I heard myself the American radio give lengthy account which it obviously savoured [as received] of the use of poisonous gases in our village. America is a big country. That is why she believes that she can spread big lies, too. But I live here, in this village, and I can tell you and all, just as before God, that no one has ever poisoned us. No one has ever bombed our village..."

"In Shin Kowrok," our interlocutor's 26-year-old son Mohammad Aqa joined in, "many bandits who came from the Pakistani side settled as unbidden guests. This is not far from here, just several hours walking distance. Strangers--Americans, Chinese, British, and many Pakistanis--sauntered about the village as if in their own home. They trained the bandits, ordered them about. Soviet soldiers helped our soldiers to throw them out of here. Only after that could the villagers return to their homes, to their land. I think that the lies about gases which no one ever sniffed here are being made for setting our people against the Soviet peoples. But their hopes are in vain. We know well who is our friend and who is our enemy."

"I also heard the American program about poisonous gases in our village," the 17-year-old Gul Aqa enters the conversation. "I can say that this is a shameless lie."

On the same day I met in Chaghasaray with the secretary of the provincial committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Mohammad Aslam, who said:

"There was nothing of the sort of Konarha. And I am sure that there were no such cases in other provinces either. Soviet soldiers came to us as brothers at our request and they behave as real brothers."

"I have already officially refuted the unscrupulous lies of that Michael Barry, disseminated by Western agencies about the use of poisonous gases in Afghanistan", I was told by Afghanistan's Minister of the Interior Sayyed Mohammad Golabzoy. "I categorically reject the malicious concoctions which he makes about the alleged abduction of Afghan women and children to the Soviet Union.

"Such things never occurred, nor can they ever happen. No matter what mounds of lie that Barry piles up, he will not conceal by them the truth about the noble actions of the Soviet Union, our most reliable and close friend, about the humanitarian mission Soviet people are performing here."

"The purpose of the subversion was to discredit the revolutionary regime in Afghanistan, to sow doubts as to the intentions of the Soviet Union when it extended a helping hand to its good neighbor. This task is by no means an easy one so Barry, as we have seen, did not shun even the most base fabrication," the correspondent stresses.

SOVIET OFFICIAL: REACTION TO AFGHAN INVASION WILL 'FIZZLE OUT'

LD081141 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 8 Apr 80 p 5 LD

[Richard Beeston dispatch: "Kremlin Confident It Has Got Away With Invasion"]

[Text] Moscow--The Soviet Union, three months after the invasion of Afghanistan, is in a smug and confident mood and fast forgetting the anxieties it felt during the early days of the intervention.

"Things are going exactly as we predicted they would," a senior Soviet official told a Western envoy recently.

"We said we just had to keep calm and it would all fizzle out."

The line--now repeated by ordinary Russians--is that Moscow has acted firmly and wisely in pursuit of its national interests but the Americans are behaving hysterically.

Afghanistan is not like Czechoslovakia or Hungary. It is a long way off and what is happening there is unimportant," a Russian told me at a recent diplomatic party.

There were real fears among Muscovites in January that the invasion could spark a world crisis. But now there is growing confidence that the Soviet Union has got away with it, and that the West after its first cries of outrage is following the same pattern it did over the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia.

Nothing has confirmed this belief more than the disintegration of the West's boycott of the Moscow Olympics. It is a matter of special satisfaction here that it is Mrs Thatcher's Britain that is playing the leading role in its collapse.

The Soviet Union is going ahead with its Olympic planning as if the boycott is no real serious threat, but a rather childish gimmick that is bound to fail. The more national Olympic committees defy their government's ban Moscow believes, the more will follow suit.

Despite criticism of the Afghan invasion, both from the West and from Western communists, the Soviet Union has remained calm and moderate, there has been no evidence of increased harassment of Westerners, as some Western embassies had feared as a reaction to an end to detente.

Soviet officials appear to be going out of their way to be polite and agreeable. Many resident Western businessmen have pulled out because of trade restrictions imposed since Afghanistan, but visiting businessmen often find conditions being made easier for them by smiling Soviet trade officials who discuss current problems more in sorrow than in anger.

Western communist critics of the Afghan intervention have been told, mildly, that they have failed to understand the Afghan situation. The Soviet Union is supporting a genuine revolution backed by the Afghan masses. Communist parties and revolutionary movement cannot sit back while "imperialism drowns Afghanistan in blood" says Moscow.

The feeling of calm and confidence in Moscow suggests that Soviet casualties in Afghanistan, spread throughout the nation and unreported in the press, have not reached unduly worrying proportions.

If there is heavy fighting this spring and the Russians are forced to bring in large reinforcements the mood could change in Moscow, and perhaps the Western attitude towards the Olympic boycott.

For now Moscow is paying a small price for its aggression and many Russians appear satisfied with a leadership, that despite its age and in contrast to the fumblings of the Carter administration, still appears able to take decisions.

USSR CONTINUES MEDICAL COOPERATION WITH AFGHANISTAN

LD081336 Moscow World Service in English 0900 GMT 8 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Here is comment by a TASS correspondent:

Cooperation in the health services with the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is one of the manifestations of solidarity of the Soviet people with the people of Afghanistan, with its just struggle for a new life.

We shall continue developing it actively, said the USSR Deputy Minister of Health Dmitriy Venediktov. Dmitriy Venediktov has received a delegation of workers in the health services of Afghanistan led by (Sayyed Amir Shamsarrah); member of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, deputy minister of health. They will be familiarizing themselves with the achievements of the Soviet health services. The program envisages negotiations on various aspects of cooperation of the two countries in medicine. The USSR and Afghanistan have been maintaining contacts in the field of health services for nearly 15 years now. Soviet doctors have been working in hospitals and seientific institutions (of) Afghanistan practically all these years. The second 5-year program assistance to Afghanistan in combatting malaria in northern districts is being implemented now. A new group of Soviet specialists, who will work together with their Afghan colleagues, will leave for Afghanistan in May.

An important trend in cooperation is assistance to Afghanistan in designing and equipping health centers; a number of them have already been commissioned. Soviet specialists now give assistance to Afghanistan in designing a blood transfusion center and a health center in Kabul and (?of) a hospital in Qonduz. Many doctors from the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan received their education in the USSR. This form of contacts will be supplemented with the work of Soviet teachers in the medical college in Kabul. The work is planned to be started this year.

A consignment of (?monomycin), a preparation for combatting the infectious disease (?leschmaniasis) will be sent in April to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The medicine will be provided free of charge. The Soviet Union has already given many times such assistance to Afghanistan, including about 30 million doses of vaccines against smallpox and cholera.

LOCAL AFGHAN MEETINGS IN SUPPORT OF REGIME NOTED

LD081516 Moscow TASS in English 1457 GMT 8 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Kabul, April 8, TASS--According to reports reaching here, a meeting of elders and chiefs of several Pashtun tribes has been held in the city of Khowst in Afghanistan's Paktia Province. On behalf of their tribes they expressed readiness to protect their land from the intrigues of regional reaction and imperialism which are encroaching on the independence, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of free Afghanistan. The tribal elders and chiefs unanimously approved of the measures the country's leadership is taking to strengthen the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and which meet the aspirations of the country's working people.

Representatives of the clergy, peasantry and business circles in the town of Paghman in Kabul Province expressed readiness to fulfil the tasks put forward by the revolutionary government before the Afghan people. A resolution adopted by the meeting participants stresses the resolve to protect the April revolution from the intrigues of its foes.

People who fled reprisals of the despotic regime of Amin and his gang are returning home. According to BAKHTAR agency, 1,100 families of Afghan peasants returned to the town of Chaghcharran, centre of Ghowr Province in central Afghanistan, and started normal work.

TOPCHYAN VIEWS WESTERN, PRC BACKING FOR AFGHAN 'REBELS'

LD091001 Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 27 Mar 80 p 3 LD

[Article by APN correspondent V. Topchyan: "In Whose Interests?"]

[Text] At a recent press conference in the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi it was announced that the 5 largest counterrevolutionary Afghan groupings have united to form the Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan. The first session of its leading organ--the so-called "revolutionary council"--has already been held in Peshawar.

Many political observers consider this to be the first step toward consolidating several dozen separate gangs. The idea of uniting the bandit military formations originated, as is known, on the banks of the Potomac and is materializing on Pakistani territory with the help of the U.S., British, Chinese and other secret services.

The reasons for uniting the five "rebel" groupings, whose leaders are divided by sharp contradictions--in terms of personal ambitions, ethnic origins and political views--are perhaps best revealed by the Washington POST: The main groupings of Afghan rebels, it writes, are so fragmented and their operations are so uncoordinated that "the CIA and other organizations and countries helping them cannot decide who to help and what results to expect from such help."

It must be said that Washington, Beijing, Islamabad and the other capitals looking for ways to "save Afghanistan's Muslims" know perfectly well to whom their help is going to and what results it is producing. It is going to counterrevolutionary gangs under the command of the landowners and the rich and for some time also CIA agents who are destabilizing the internal political situation in Democratic Afghanistan. The results are dead and wounded civilians, including children and old people, burned-out homes and automobiles and destroyed roads and bridges.

But Washington does not confine itself merely to knocking together "alliances" and giving them material assistance. As Secretary of State C. Vance has admitted, the United States "is looking for someone to lead the Afghan people"--someone closely connected with the United States of course. Around 10 of the various bandit groupings' leaders are already on the list of possible candidates. But the Washington POST admits that "there are no grounds for supposing that Afghans would want to be ruled by a leader chosen for them by the United States."

The White House is not in the least troubled by this. According to Western newspaper reports, several names have already been selected to fill the role of "head of free Afghanistan." The names most frequently mentioned are those of two heads of the counterrevolutionary rabble--Zia Nasiri and Zia Khan Nasiri, who, by coincidence, are U.S. citizens and CIA agents. They have had a number of meetings in Washington with Carter's advisers and State Department officials.

Attempts are being made by the mass media of certain Western and Asian countries to link the present anti-Afghan racket with the movement of a limited contingent of Soviet troops into Afghanistan at the request of its lawful government. But it is known that long before this, to be precise immediately after the 1978 April revolution, armed formations of the Afghan counterrevolution, with the help of the United States, China, Britain, Egypt and Israel, began preparing on Pakistani territory to overthrow the revolutionary government. And on 15 April 1979, the Parisian weekly AFRIQUE-ASIE writes: thousands of bandits under the command of Pakistani officers and their Western allies crossed the Afghan border. In May and June, the magazine points out, acting on instructions from the Pakistani Government armed tribes of nomads attacked Afghan territory in several places at once.

Here are a few more examples. In June last year the Pakistani ship (Al-Kasum) delivered to the port of Karachi 2,000 tons of weapons and military equipment from the United States. At virtually the same time another ship--the Rustom--arrived from China carrying 8,000 tons of weapons. The entire cargo was then sent to the regions bordering on Afghanistan and distributed among detachments of counterrevolutionaries, for whom 20 bases and 50 camps had been set up on Pakistani territory.

It is appropriate to ask the question: Does the anti-Afghan slant of the policy being pursued by Pakistan's present government, which has fallen under the influence of U.S. hegemonism and Chinese chauvinism, accord with the interests of the Pakistani people themselves? Of course not. "Pakistan's painful experiments with Pakistani-U.S. treaties," the Pakistani weekly VIEWPOINT writes, "dash any hope that the United States will now decide to act in our interests. It is quite clear that the U.S. administration is only concerned about defending U.S. interests."

In their Afghan ploy the transatlantic strategists are using the bloody hands of the counterrevolutionary gangs to bank up the fire. "Influential U.S. circles," the French newspaper LE FIGARO states, "have found a new sphere of activity in the Middle East and as a result the secret war against Afghanistan is acquiring the dimensions of a major political and strategic operation."

PRAVDA REPORTS RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY SRI LANKA CP CONGRESS

LD041559 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 31 Mar 80 p 5 LD

[Text] Colombo, 30 March, TASS--The 11th Sri Lanka Communist Party [SLCP] Congress ended its work today with the election of a new 50-member party Central Committee. [paragraph continues]

The control and auditing commissions were also elected. The first session of the new SLCP Central Committee, to be held in April, will elect the Politburo, the general secretary of the party Central Committee and other leaders. The congress delegates unanimously approved resolutions emphasizing the need for unity and cohesion in the international communist and workers movement on the basis of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. The delegates advocated the resolute unmasking of Maoism and other "theories" incompatible with Marxism-Leninism.

The congress unanimously approved a resolution on the need to further deepen the detente process. The resolution says that the policy of international detente has recently assumed a dominant role in world politics. The peace program advanced by the CPSU pointed to concrete opportunities for progress toward achieving detente and disarmament. The fact that the course of detente has received the unanimous support of the socialist countries, the nonalined movement, the international workers and democratic movement and all the world's peace-loving forces shows how fully this policy meets the aspirations of the broadest masses of mankind. The opponents of detente are doing everything in their power to resist the objective laws of history. They are resorting to threats and blackmail, continuing the arms race, hatching plans to set up new military bases, supplying counterrevolutionary forces with weapons, unleashing unprecedented propaganda campaigns and conspiring with the most reactionary forces.

The Sri Lanka communists' congress expresses solidarity with the struggle to defend the detente policy, which must form the basis of contemporary international relations. The congress participants resolutely protested the Carter administration's adventurist course directed toward creating hotbeds of instability in various regions of the world. The congress decisively condemned U.S. imperialism's policy and actions, implemented in close collaboration with the Beijing hegemonists in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf, says the special resolution entitled "On the U.S. Collusion With China," which the congress participants approved unanimously. These actions are part of the global plan aimed at stopping the detente process and the progress of the national-liberation movement and socialism.

In order to implement its schemes the China-U.S. alliance is arming and supporting reactionary puppet regimes prepared to betray their own people's interests. The alliance is resorting to the use of economic and military force against those governments and peoples not favorably disposed toward it, in order to blackmail them, interfere in their internal affairs or even conduct direct military onslaughts against them. All these actions, the resolution stresses, present the most direct threat to the freedom, sovereign and territorial integrity of the Asian states and peoples. They are dangerous to peace in this region and throughout the world. The Sri Lanka communists demand that the build-up of the U.S. military presence in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf cease immediately, that U.S. warships be withdrawn from those waters, and that the policy of blackmailing Iran and rearming Pakistan be abandoned, the resolution says. The United States, China, Egypt and Pakistan must immediately cease their interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs and allow the Afghan people to decide their destiny themselves. Only under these conditions will it be possible to ease tension in the region, the resolution concludes.

The SLCP has a high opinion of the Soviet Union's aid to the Afghan people; it is a shining example of true internationalism. The 11th SLCP Congress was an important event in the party's history, and demonstrated its unity and solidarity, the Sri Lanka communists' determination to struggle tirelessly to defend the rights of the country's working population and their loyalty to the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

U.S., PRC PLANS NOT IN INTEREST OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

LD081451 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian Morning Edition 29 Mar 80 p 4 LD

[V. Ganshin article under the rubric "International Topics": "Interests Do Not Coincide"]

[Text] The United States and China have recently been striving ever more noticeably to draw other states into the hegemonist strategic designs of Beijing and Washington. The countries of Southeast Asia are being subjected to a dual pressure in this respect.

The aim of these actions is perfectly clear. Beijing and Washington intend using the clamor of talk about "an external threat" to conceal their expansionist plans to turn Southeast Asia into a bridgehead for Chinese and U.S. penetration of other regions of Asia and the Near and Middle East. They see the way to realize these plans in continuously fueling tension in the region and creating permanent conflict complicating the political solution of the problems facing the countries of Southeast Asia.

The outlines of this geopolitical scheme are already emerging clearly. Thus, the United States is planning substantial increase in its military presence in Southeast Asia and is taking steps to expand and modernize the existing U.S. bases in certain countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations [ASEAN]. For its part, Beijing, relying on Huaqiao support, is striving to play an increasingly appreciable role in the economy of the ASEAN countries and influence their policy in its favor. Beijing's support for antigovernment insurgent groupings in a number of Southeast Asian countries is its way of "instigating" close collaboration with China. Despite numerous protests from public opinion and statemen in Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, the Chinese Government not only has no intention of renouncing its "two-tier diplomacy" vis-a-vis with these countries; on the contrary, it has noticeably stepped up its aid, including material and military aid, to the insurgents.

While stepping up tension in the region, Beijing is not ceasing its provocations against Socialist Vietnam and is continuing to render diverse aid to the remaining Pol Pot gangs, trying thereby to convince the ASEAN countries that the continuation of military action in Kampuchea is somehow in their interest. Ignoring the aspiration of the region's states to form their own relations on the principles of good neighborliness and mutual respect for sovereignty, China is inciting the ASEAN countries to confrontation with the People's Republic of Kampuchea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, promising them military aid in exchange for tough anti-Vietnam positions.

It must be said that these countries are sufficiently well aware of the true nature of China's "concern" for the security of the region's states. The unacceptibility of Beijing's prescriptions for the development of the Indochina situation was clearly demonstrated during the visit by the Chinese foreign minister to the Philippines, Malaysia and Singapore. As the Malaysian paper NEW STRAITS TIMES wrote, Beijing failed to "sell" its war-mongering ideas to the ASEAN countries, which do not wish to serve as pawns in the dangerous games of China and the United States.

It is perfectly obvious that the long-term national interests of the region's countries and the prospects for turning Southeast Asia into a zone of peace and good neighborliness are diametrically opposed to Beijing's and Washington's imperialist and hegemonist plans.

## FURTHER ON HUNGARIAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY'S VISIT

### Talks with Suslov

LD090811 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Apr 80 p 4 LD

[TASS report: "Talks at the CPSU Central Committee"]

[Text] On 3 April M.A. Suslov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, received M. Ovari, member of the MSZMP Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, who is in Moscow in connection with the holding of the Hungarian cultural festival in the USSR.

Participating in the talks, which were held in a warm, cordial atmosphere, were O.B. Rakhmanin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy chief of a CPSU Central Committee department, and also M. Szuros, member of the MSZMP Central Committee and Hungarian ambassador to the USSR.

### Demichev Reception

LD090813 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Apr 80 p 4 LD

[TASS report under the general headline "Days of Culture"]

[Text] The USSR Ministry of Culture has given a reception in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses in honor of the participants in the Hungarian days of culture.

The reception was attended by M. Ovari, member of the MSZMP Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the MSZMP Central Committee, and by the delegation headed by I. Pozsgay, Hungarian minister of culture.

Present at the reception on the Soviet side were P.N. Demichev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and USSR minister of culture, leaders of a number of state and public organizations and prominent cultural figures.

## COMMENTARY MARKS DAY OF ITALIAN OCCUPATION OF ALBANIA

AU081230 Moscow in Albanian to Albania 1530 GMT 7 Apr 80 AU

[Unattributed commentary on 41st anniversary of Italian invasion of Albania]

[Text] Dear friends, 41 years ago today Albania was treacherously attacked by Fascist Italy. In those difficult days for Albania, our commentator writes, it was only the Soviet Union which defended the violated rights of the Albanian people, while the Western powers, which followed the disgraceful policy of appeasement with the aggressor, in fact recognized the predatory occupation of Albania by the Italian Fascists.

In May 1939 the Soviet representative at the League of Nations proposed that the Albanian issue be discussed at the plenary session of the League's Council. In this connection, the council is faced with an act of unprovoked aggression against a small country and its military occupation, the Soviet representative stressed. This, the Soviet delegate pointed out, compels all the members of the League to promptly work out effective means for fighting the aggressor.

The news on the principled stand of the Soviet state also reached the Albanian patriots and gave them moral support in their struggle against the fascist occupier. The publication of the Soviet Government statement on Albania's independence in December 1942 also became an important factor in the momentum of the national liberation movement in Albania. The statement stressed that the Soviet Union does not recognize any claim by Italian imperialism on Albanian territory and that it wishes to see Albania free and independent.

Later, the Albanian press wrote more than once about this step taken by the Soviet state at a difficult time when the Soviet Army was engaged in fierce battles against the Hitlerite occupiers. In the postwar years the Albanian press also stressed the close connection between the victory of the Soviet Union in the war against fascist Germany and the liberation of Albania. It considered the Soviet soldiers as brothers who shed their blood also for the independence of the Albanian people. The swift offensive of the Soviet troops in the Balkans in the autumn of 1944, ZERI I POPULLIT wrote then, played the decisive role in the final routing of the enemy from the territory of our country.

In the postwar years the Soviet-Albanian friendship, forged in the common struggle against fascism, was successfully developed and strengthened. The Soviet Union provided assistance to the new republic to build the new life and to strengthen its political and economic independence. Albania's cooperation with CEMA and the Warsaw Pact also contributed to that end. Within the framework of the Warsaw Pact, Albania, together with the other fraternal countries, tried to create strong guarantees of international security and made concrete proposals to achieve this goal. In the first place, this policy responded to the fundamental interests of the Albanian people and the interests of peace and socialism.

This year it will be 35 years since the end of World War II. During the 35 years that have elapsed mankind has lived in peace. During all these years the peace-loving policy of the socialist countries has been an important factor in preserving and strengthening peace and has brought about many changes in the international situation and in the relations between states with different social systems.

The constructive proposals made by the fraternal countries about issues of disarmament and further development of international cooperation are now supported by the progressive international public. They see in them a (wide) and realistic program for peace in our era. At the same time, we cannot fail to see that the forces of imperialism have recently turned against detente, peace and the peoples' rights. In this connection, the unity of action by the socialist countries for defending these great and most precious things is more important than ever before. In their resolute resistance to the imperialist intrigues lies the guarantee for preserving peace.

I am not exaggerating if I tell you that many of the dangerous plans of the NATO militaristic circles failed to materialize because they were counterbalanced by the firm unity and the strength of the Warsaw Pact. The strength of unity of the fraternal countries, the strength of socialist internationalism, was especially demonstrated in a convincing way in the strong support for the people of Vietnam in their war against the American aggressors and later against the Chinese aggressors. The solidarity of the fraternal countries is now on the side of Democratic Afghanistan, which is defending its freedom and independence from foreign intervention. It is on the side of those peoples who are struggling.

In the unity of the fraternal countries and their consistent peace-loving policy in the international arena [words indistinct] of the guarantee that the tragedies of the past, similar to the tragedy experienced by Albania in April 1939, will never be repeated.

KHOMEYNI'S REMARKS ON U.S.-IRAN RELATIONS REPORTED

LD082022 Moscow TASS in English 1938 GMT 8 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Tehran, April 8, TASS--Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Council today published a statement after its emergency meeting in which it accuses the United States of "overt aggression" against Iran effected by means of the new anti-Iranian measures announced by Jimmy Carter. "Behind the demand for the release of American hostages President Carter tries to conceal his government's imperialist designs in respect of Iran", the statement notes.

The leader of the Iranian revolution Ayatollah Khomeyni today addressed a message to the country's people concerning the U.S. rupture of diplomatic relations with Iran. "If Carter has done one thing in his life which it can be said is to the benefit of the oppressed it is this very cutting of relations between a nation risen for liberation from the grip of international plunderers and a world predator plunderer", the message says.

"We believe this rupture of relations to be a good sign because it is a sign of the collapse of all the hopes of the American Government associated with Iran. The Iranian people", Ayatollah Khomeyni said, "is entitled to marking as a holiday this harbinger of final victory on compelling a blood-thirsty power - the United States to cut off relations, that is to stop its plunder".

Mojahedin Khalq, an organization of fighters for the sacred cause of the Iranian people, has called on the Iranian Government to sever all "economic and military relations" with the United States.

Radio Iran reported the placing in full combat readiness of the naval and air garrisons in Khuzestan Province on the Persian Gulf shore in order to provide anti-aircraft defence for oil installations in connection with the announcement by Washington of punitive measures against Iran.

COMMENTARIES REFUTE TALE OF 'SOVIET THREAT' AGAINST IRAN

Moscow Persian View

NC081430 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 8 Apr 80 NC

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Excerpts] Recently, the imperialist propaganda machinery of the United States of America broadcasts and publishes new fictitious talks on the so-called "Soviet danger" which is allegedly threatening Iran, and our commentator writes: The baselessness and uselessness of such writing and sayings is very clear.

On the false pretext of the "Soviet danger", U.S. imperialism is trying to create mistrust and a distance in relations between Iran and the Soviet Union--a country which is a loyal and strong ally of the Iranian nation in its anti-imperialist struggles.

As you know, our country was among those who recognized the Islamic Republic of Iran before other countries and has reiterated its readiness many times for the consolidation and development of relations with Iran on the basis of the principles of good neighborliness, respect for sovereign rights and territorial integrity and noninterference in each other's domestic affairs.

But contrary to obvious realities, shouts continue to be heard today too from Washington claiming that the Soviet Union is threatening Iran. Consider how greatly they worry about Iran's security:

So much sympathy is being shown by those who taught SAVAK elements how to torture Iranian patriots; those, who helped the deposed shah to place demonstrators before the firing squad, are now creating obstacles for the return of the criminal shah for a trial by a just court. These are the persons who have stationed a large number of warships and a large part of the air force in the Persian Gulf.

They claim that all these measures were taken to protect Iran from the Soviet danger. How unlimited U.S. imperialism's hypocrisy can be. U.S. imperialism does not refrain from employing any means and treachery to thwart the Iranian revolution. One of these deceitful methods is spreading insolent calumny against the Soviet Union and the hackneyed tale of the imaginary "Soviet danger" for Iran.

When persons in Iran now claim that the Soviet Union creates a danger for Iran, those in Washington rub their hands with joy. This question is then raised: Those making these remarks, cannot they guess who benefits by them? But we leave the irresponsible remarks to the conscience of those who make them. (?Undoubtedly) the Iranian people will understand where the true danger for them and their nation is coming from.

Nepesov Article

LD081315 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 1 Apr 80 p 3 LD

[SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA international observer M. Nepesov article: "Iran's Light and Shade"]

[Excerpts] It is now more than 18 months since the first people's demonstrations against the shah and his American friends heralded the start of the Iranian revolution. Events in an around Iran still remain today at the focus of world public attention. Sometimes details emerge in the light of which particular problems are often seen from a completely different angle. For instance, a few days ago we learned of a secret report prepared for the U.S. Congress House Select Committee on Intelligence. This, in particular, openly claims that none other than Carter himself provoked the seizure of the American Embassy in Tehran by inviting the former shah to the United States. It transpires that the President received repeated warnings that this action might mean Americans would be taken hostage.

Today Iran is an Islamic republic, proclaimed on 1 April 1979. In a referendum, 97 percent of Iranian voters voted for it. The creation of the republic is certainly a progressive act in Iran's 2,500-year history. At the same time it should not be forgotten that it was created under the banner of the Islamic religion.

Just how has the young republic's first year of existence turned out? The internal difficulties associated with restoring the economy and insuring supplies of foodstuffs and other necessities have been exacerbated by the American military threat. U.S. imperialism, which with the fall of the shah's regime lost what seemed to it to be an immutable prop in a region saturated with oil, moved into the Persian Gulf an unprecedented armada of warships, including several attack aircraft carriers.

Nonetheless, despite the anti-Iranian hysteria inflamed by the United States, Iran is advancing along the path of revolutionary transformation. It withdrew from the pro-imperialist CENTO military bloc, thereby ending the existence of that offspring of the cold war in the Middle and Near East. Iran has joined the nonalined movement and advocates peaceful coexistence and noninterference in other states' internal affairs.

So the fact that certain Iranian leaders are venturing to make unjustified attacks on neighboring countries looks all the stranger. For instance, distorting the history of Soviet-Iranian relations, they claim that our country is a danger to Iran. Fables are also circulated about the "grim" lot of Muslims living in the Soviet Central Asian and Transcaucasus republics and about some sort of persecution to which they are allegedly subjected.

It is hard to explain foreign policy zigzags of this kind. For people in Iran know very well that for more than 60 years the Soviet Union has firmly and consistently pursued a policy of good neighborliness and mutually advantageous equitable cooperation vis-a-vis its southern neighbor. Suffice it to say that it was with Soviet assistance that modern industrial sectors such as ferrous metallurgy, the mining and coal industries and gas pipeline transportation emerged in Iran. "Iran has a particular need of friendly support now, in the difficult postrevolutionary period," M. Mottaqi, director of the Esfahan metallurgical plant, says. "Our people have seen for themselves from their own experience that their friends from the Soviet Union give them comprehensive assistance."

Life itself convinces one of the justice of this remark. For instance, a group of Soviet power industry workers arrived in Iran recently to take part in constructing a major thermal power station. In all, 147 industrial and other projects, of which 88 have already been commissioned, are being constructed there with Soviet assistance. They also include the metallurgical plant in Esfahan--the country's biggest enterprise. This provides many thousands of people with a livelihood. Construction and installation work are now in full swing at the plant. The second blast furnace, a new coking battery and an agglomeration plant are nearing commissioning. Yet another rolling mill, a thermal power station and other facilities are under construction. The plant's capacity will reach 1.9 million tons of steel per year. This quantity of metal is enough to supply practically all Iran's requirements. Other objects of Soviet-Iranian cooperation could also be named--the machine-building plant in Arak which produces steam boilers, construction cranes, mining equipment and also grain elevators, and the hydraulic power system on the River Araks.

"Like all sincere supporters of peace, progress and the peoples' independence," Comrade L.I. Brezhnev has stressed, expressing Soviet people's opinion of the Iranian revolution, "we welcome the victory of this revolution that has ended the despotic, oppressive regime that had turned the country into a target of exploitation and a supporting base for foreign imperialism. We wish the new, revolutionary Iran success and prosperity and we hope that the good-neighborly relations between the peoples of the Soviet Union and Iran will be fruitfully developed under the new conditions on the firm basis of mutual respect, goodwill and noninterference in one another's internal affairs."

MOSCOW PERSIAN: IRAN-IRAQ TENSIONS BENEFIT ONLY IMPERIALISTS

NC081810 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1630 GMT 8 Apr 80 NC

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: According to news agencies, relations between Iran and Iraq have deteriorated. Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi, in a message to the UN secretary general, has requested that the Iranian troops be withdrawn from the islands of Greater and Lesser Tunb and Bu Musa in the Strait of Hormuz. In 1971 Iran established its supervision over these islands. Sadeq Qotbzadeh has refused this request by Iraq.

[Moscow TASS in English at 1352 GMT on 7 April 1980 in a similar report adds the following: "The Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh in his television appearance declined Iraq's demand pertaining to the three islands in the area of the Strait of Hormuz. Earlier, the minister said that the question of Iranian sovereignty over these islands is 'not subject to discussion.' According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, about a thousand Iranians-Shi'ites who resided on the territory of Iraq were deported to Iran and their property confiscated."]

It is natural that all these reports give rise to anxiety. If Iran and Iraq lose control of this situation and allow the tension of the situation to intensify it could be greatly detrimental to both countries, especially under present conditions, when U.S. imperialism is stationing military forces in the Persian Gulf region, and is threatening to resort to military intervention in Iran and to intervene in the affairs of the other oil-producing countries, including Iraq.

Both the Iraqi and the Iranian press condemn Washington's and the Pentagon's demands in the Persian Gulf region and realize the danger which has cast its shadow on the regional countries as a result of this. Under such conditions the deterioration of Iran-Iraq relations benefits only the imperialist forces, which are enemies of both countries. There is no doubt that imperialist forces will very willingly use any suitable excuse to divert public opinion from their dangerous and indecent activities in the Near East and Persian Gulf.

MAKSIMOV PRAISES 'MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS' COOPERATION WITH IRAQ

LD081253 Moscow TASS in English 1150 GMT 8 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Moscow, April 8, TASS--The TASS correspondent, Yuriy Maksimov, writes: The eighth anniversary of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Republic of Iraq falls due tomorrow. The aspects of Soviet-Iraqi cooperation are manyfaceted and of a stable and mutually-advantageous nature. Tangible results of this cooperation are the economic projects built on Iraqi soil with Soviet assistance. They are the electroengineering works and farming machinery works, the Tartar-Euphrates canal and the An-Nabiriyah thermal power plant, enterprises of the textile, glass and pharmaceutical industries and centres for the training of national personnel.

The Soviet Union rendered big aid to Iraq in the making and development of its oil industry, specifically, in the creation and expansion of oilfields in northern Rumaila.

Whereas this deposit yielded five million tons of oil in 1972, output became almost ten times as much with the completion of the construction of the second and third sections of the deposit.

The oil products pipeline Baghdad-Basra, this unique project unmatched in the Middle East, was placed into operation with technical assistance of the USSR. In all, some 100 major economic projects have been built or are under construction in Iraq during the many years of cooperation between the two countries; many of them are the core of the economic organism of the Iraqi Republic.

The treaty of friendship and cooperation raised the trade relations between the two countries to a new level. In the past eight years, trade between the USSR and Iraq increased almost tenfold, equalling 1,200 million roubles in 1979. In return for machinery and equipment, Iraq ships staple exports to the Soviet Union: hides, cotton, dates, wool, and oil. In recent years the range of Iraqi commodities, exported the USSR, has been widened to include footwear and knitted garments.

Personnel, trained with assistance from Soviet specialists, makes a big contribution to the accomplishment of national tasks. Over 30,000 qualified workers, engineers and technicians, trained with Soviet assistance, now work in various branches of industry, farming, science and culture.

'PROGRESSIVE ARAB' CITED ON IRAQI CP ANNIVERSARY

LD042208 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Arabic to the Arab World 1630 GMT 3 Apr 80 LD

[Text] The progressive public in Iraq and other countries is marking the 46th anniversary of the establishment of the first Iraqi Communist Party. In this connection, the progressive Arab Sa'id al-Malih says: [begin recording]

As Iraqi communists stand before the anniversary of their glorious party today, they reflect on their militant march which has been moistened by the blood of martyrs and enriched by thousands of the cream of the sons of the people who spent their radiant youth in exile or prisons in defense of the interests of the workers and for the cause of peace, democracy and progress. They stand with reverence before the memory of Fahd, Hazim, Tarim, Salam 'Adil, Jamal al-Haydari, Al-'Abali, Abu al-'Izz, Nafi' Yunis, Suhayr Sharhan, Tawfiq Rashdi, Salah at-Taqi as-Sarraf and hundreds of others.

The role of the Iraqi Communist Party in the patriotic and pan-Arab progressive movement has not been confined to drafting proper slogans needed in every stage of the struggle, but it has mounted a persistent struggle that has mobilized and led the popular masses to achieve their aims in a free homeland and to become a happy people. The uprising of 1948, the uprising of the Iraqi people in 1952 and scores of labor strikes and peasant uprisings, and others, are proof of this.

Therefore, celebrating this anniversary has become a militant tradition not only among the communists and their friends, but also among all the progressives and democrats and broad masses of the people, who found in the party a determined expression of their legitimate hopes and aspirations.

From the outset, the Iraqi Communist Party defined its principled stand toward the Kurdish national issue on the basis of the Marxist-Leninist principles which upholds for all nations, small or large--their right to self-determination. It has struggled constantly to strengthen the militant fraternity between Arabs and Kurds and has supported their joint struggle to build a society in which all fraternal nationalities can enjoy equal rights.

The party has always called for consolidating the solidarity of the Arab peoples for the sake of attaining a democratic national unity linked to the aims of complete liberation from colonialism and Zionism. The party fought a diligent intellectual and political struggle against Zionism as a racist movement. It has championed and defended the cause of the Palestinian people to enable them to return to their usurped land and establish their national independent state.

The party profoundly and clearly determined who is a patriot, a nationalist and an internationalist. It placed them in a situation of live interaction and cohesion without permitting contradictions between them.

There is no doubt that celebrating this anniversary, more than any time in the past, assumes a special and great importance today. This is because Iraqi reactionaries have launched a fierce and extensive campaign to exterminate the Iraqi Communist Party. They arrested thousands of its members. These were sent to prisons where they became the victims of the worst forms of persecution and torture. However, the party emerged from the dilemma intact, as it has in the past. The executioners had another taste of defeat. Their fate will be the same as those who preceded them, such as Nuri as-Sa'id and Rashid Muslih.

The Iraqi communists' struggle receives all the support, backing and solidarity from the Soviet Union, the friend of our Iraqi people, from the rest of socialist states and from all the forces of peace, and liberation and progress in the world. These forces have stood and will always stand alongside the struggle of the Iraqi people in its plight. The Iraqi communists are struggling today to build a democratic and free Iraq in which the Kurdish people would enjoy a genuine self-rule. In this, the Kurdish people are supported by all the progressive and patriotic forces who believe in democracy and by all the broad masses of the sons of the Iraqi people.

Cheers to the heroic struggle of the Iraqi communists and glory to the 46th anniversary of the birth of the heroic Iraqi Communist Party.

MOSCOW PERSIAN NOTES GENERAL ALLEN VISIT TO EGYPT

NC041225 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1100 GMT 4 Apr 80 NC

[Text] The U.S. Air Force chief of staff, General Allen, reviewed the Near East situation and the strengthening of joint military cooperation between Egypt and the United States with the Egyptian chief of staff of the Armed Forces, Ahmad Badawi, in Cairo. General Allen also visited an Egyptian military base.

The Cairo regime has granted the United States permission to use Egyptian military bases in return for increased deliveries of various arms. Last December, the two countries participated in joint air force maneuvers. Since then American reconnaissance planes have been flying over the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf areas from Egyptian bases.

ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION VISITS TBILISI

ID081053 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 18 Mar 80 p 3 ID

[Text] GRUZINFORM--The members of a delegation from socialist Ethiopia have spent 3 days learning about Georgian life. The delegation, headed by Addis Tedla, member of the Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Council Standing Committee and deputy chairman of the Supreme Council for the Revolutionary Campaign of Development and Central Planning, was received by Z.A. Pataridze, chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers.

Comrade Z.A. Pataridze familiarized the delegation members with various aspects of the republic's life and with successes achieved in the development of its industry and agricultural production, science and culture. "Georgia is a country with an ancient culture," Z.A. Pataridze stressed, "but it was only after the Great October Revolution that its cultural assets were put to the service of the people. The republic has dozens of higher and secondary specialized education establishments which educate the widest variety of young specialist cadres."

Addis Tedla thanked him for the cordial reception and expressed confidence that the visit to Georgia will be remembered for a long time by each member of the delegation.

Ethiopia today, he said, is a backward country. This is the result of many centuries of imperialist domination and oppression of the people by local rich men. The transformations which began after the revolution delight our friends but disturb our enemies who would like to reverse history. For 4 years we had to defend the gains of the revolution by force of arms.

Addis Tedla noted that the great assistance given by the Soviet Union is a reliable guarantee that the people of socialist Ethiopia will be able not only to defend the gains of the revolution but also proceed further along the path of economic and social progress and building of socialism.

Members of the socialist Ethiopia Government delegation, (Tekola Dejene), (Tekeze-Shoa Aytenfisu), (Mohammed Sherif) and others, were present at the conversation. Also participating were P.P. Anisimov, deputy chairman of USSR Gosplan; D.L. Kartvelishvili, deputy chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Georgian SSR Gosplan and other officials. The conversation took place in a warm and friendly atmosphere. The socialist Ethiopia Government delegation visited the Georgian SSR Gosplan where it acquainted itself with the work of the republic's chief planning organ.

The guests visited the Georgian SSR Exhibition of National Economic Achievements and went to Mtskheta. At the Gruziya-Film movie studio they saw documentary films on Georgian historical monuments.

On behalf of the republican government Z.A. Pataridze, chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers, gave a dinner in honor of the delegation of socialist Ethiopia's Government.

On 17 March the delegation left Tbilisi for Moscow. The guests were seen off at Tbilisi airport by Z.A. Pataridze, D.L. Kartvelishvili and other officials.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON CUBAN VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Remarks on Cooperation

LD081626 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1050 GMT 7 Apr 80 LD

["Interview: Cuba--Benefits of Cooperation With the USSR"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 7 April, TASS--The successful construction of socialism in Cuba is inseparably linked with the all-round and fruitful cooperation with the Soviet Union, a TASS correspondent was told by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the Cuban Communist Party [PCC] Central Committee Politburo and vice president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers. The relations between the two countries, based on mutual understanding, trust, friendship and cooperation, are the embodiment of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

After the victory of the people's revolution of 1 January 1959, Cuba, under the leadership of the PCC, has been confidently building a new life, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez said. Having attained national independence it is today the only country in the Western Hemisphere where there is no unemployment, illiteracy or poverty.

The country's economy is developing at an accelerated rate. The backwardness of many centuries is giving way to social progress to which all citizens of free Cuba have access without exception.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, who headed his country's delegation at the 10th session of the Soviet-Cuban intergovernmental commission on economic and scientific-technical cooperation held in Moscow, left the USSR today.

The session discussed matters affecting all spheres of our relations, he noted. The results of the work express full mutual understanding and the readiness of the Soviet Union to continue to promote the further development of Cuba.

The USSR accounts for more than 60 percent of Cuba's foreign trade turnover. In 1979 the volume of joint trade came to R4.2 billion.

The Soviet Union helps Cuba's economic development by supplying the means for the construction of various enterprises of the national economy, the head of the delegation continued. In the current 5-year plan period alone the volume of equipment supplied to major Cuban projects--power stations (which will also include an atomic one in the near future!), plants and factories--has been in excess of R1 billion and this will grow considerably in the 1981-85 period.

There is hardly a spot in Cuba now which does not have a project built with the assistance of the USSR and where various Soviet equipment is not used or where Soviet specialists do not work. Fidel Castro has noted on more than one occasion that relations with the Soviet Union have been and will remain decisive for Cuba.

Without the October Revolution in Russian the victory of the Cuban revolution would have been impossible. Without the fraternal solidarity of the Soviet people the Cuban revolution would not have been able to resist U.S. imperialism. Without cooperation with the Soviet Union Cuba would not have been able to achieve its considerable successes in development, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez concluded. This is why the Cuban people are marking the 110th anniversary of the birth of Lenin as their own great holiday. Competition between the working people has begun in the country in honor of this important date. Solemn meetings will be held and scientific conferences and other activities will be staged.

Departure for Berlin

LD071958 Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 7 Apr 80 LD

[Text] The Cuban deputy prime minister, Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, left Moscow for Berlin today. He led his country's delegation at a meeting of the Soviet-Cuban intergovernmental commission on economic, scientific and technological cooperation. The commission reviewed the results of bilateral cooperation and discussed its prospects. Since 1976 Cuba has built with Soviet assistance 50 industrial and other projects. In the 5 years beginning next year the volume of Soviet technical aid to that country is to grow by over 50 percent.

CASTRO RECEIVES MOSKOVSKIY OBKOM FIRST SECRETARY

LD090755 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Apr 80 p 4 LD

[TASS report: "In a Fraternal Atmosphere"]

[Text] Havana, 2 April--Fidel Castro, first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee and president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, has received V.I. Konotop, member of the CPSU Central Committee and first secretary of Moskovskiy Obkom, who is on a visit here at the invitation of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee. The meeting took place in a fraternal atmosphere.

ARGENTINE ATOMIC ENERGY HEAD DISCUSSES COOPERATION

LD021525 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 29 Mar 80 Morning Edition p 4 LD

[TASS report under the general headline "Official Reports"]

[Text] On 27 March G.V. Aleksenko, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee for Science and Technology, received Jorge Coll, secretary general of the Argentine National Atomic Energy Commission.

Prospects for bilateral cooperation in the sphere of the nuclear power industry and also questions of scientific and technical exchanges in that sphere were discussed.

BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT REJECTS U.S. ANTI-SOVIET POLICIES

LD090759 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Apr 80 p 4 LD

[TASS report: "Equitable Cooperation"]

[Text] Brasilia, 2 April--It has been 35 years since the USSR and Brazil established diplomatic relations. On 2 April 1945 the governments of the Soviet Union and Brazil announced their intention of developing friendly relations.

Brazil is one of the Soviet Union's biggest trade partners in Latin America.

In his traditional message to the National Congress President Joao Figueiredo of Brazil expressed interest in further developing trade and economic ties with the USSR and other socialist countries. Brazil has rejected the U.S. attempts to draw it into the gambit of the U.S. policy of economic blackmail of the USSR and a boycott of the Moscow Olympics.

TEXT OF SOLOMENTSEV SPEECH TO RSFSR SUPREME SOVIET

LD080925 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 27 Mar 80 p 1 LD

[Text of speech by M.S. Solomentsev, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers, at RSFSR Supreme Soviet session in Moscow 26 March: "Deputy M.S. Solomentsev's Speech"]

[Text] Esteemed Comrade Deputies!

I sincerely thank you for supporting the proposal put forward and ratifying the composition of the RSFSR Council of Ministers.

On behalf of all the members of the Russian Federation Government allow me to express my profound gratitude to the CPSU Central Committee, the Central Committee Politburo and to Leonid Ilich Brezhnev personally for their high trust.

The Leninist party, the leading and directing force of Soviet society, wisely and confidently leads our people along the path of communism. The Russian Federation Council of Ministers will strive unswervingly in all its activity to implement CPSU policy and will be guided by the decisions of the party congresses and of the party Central Committee.

In accordance with the Constitution and law on the RSFSR Council of Ministers, the republic government's efforts will be concentrated on insuring the dynamic, planned and balanced development of the national economy. The task of successfully completing the 10th 5-Year Plan and creating a firm base for further rapid progress, as defined by the CPSU Central Committee November (1979) Plenum, is currently coming to the fore.

Addressing a meeting of voters from the capital's Baumanskiy Electoral Okrug, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev emphasized that in the seventies we began to steer the economy toward intensive development and the raising of efficiency and quality. In the eighties we must continue this most important work, which constitutes the core of the party's economic strategy. The Russian Federation Government will adhere strictly to this principle.

In industry, paramount attention will be paid to the further accelerated growth of those sectors which determine scientific and technical progress, the development of the fuel and energy complex, particularly in the eastern regions, the introduction of scientific and technical achievements, to the better use of productive potential and the economical use of means and resources.

In implementing the Communist Party's agrarian policy the Russian Federation Council of Ministers will strive to increase production of all types of agricultural produce, particularly grain, potatoes, vegetables, sugar beet, meat and milk.

On the basis of extensive chemicalization and reclamation and the improvement of farming standards in general, the task ahead is to substantially increase soil fertility, to work to create zones of guaranteed harvests and to develop the agriculture of the Non-Chernozem Zone at a faster than average rate.

In accordance with the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee July (1978) Plenum, particular importance is being attached to work to deepen production specialization and concentration and strengthen the interaction of all the components of the agroindustrial complex.

In capital construction the republic's Council of Ministers attaches great attention to the on-schedule commissioning of projects including those of a social and cultural significance, the improvement of the quality of work and the concentration of resources. Measures will be taken to improve the working of transport, primarily railroad transport, and to develop the road network.

In full accordance with the party's social policy, extensive work will continue to be conducted in the republic aimed at improving the services spheres, health care and social welfare and developing the education system, science and culture.

The Russian Federation Council of Ministers and all administrative organs are called upon to insure punctilious plan fulfillment, strengthen discipline, raise the standard of leadership and improve the economic mechanism. Taking into account the growing role of the soviets of people's deputies in accordance with the democratic principles sealed by the USSR Constitution, the republic's government will devote daily attention to the work of local soviet ispolkoms.

The Russian Federation, like our entire country, faces great and important tasks in further social, economic and cultural building. Their successful solution is guaranteed by the indestructible unity of Soviet society and the cohesion of the working class, the kolkhoz peasantry, the intelligentsia and all the nations and nationalities around their dear Communist Party.

This cohesion was remarkably expressed by the recent elections to the supreme soviets of the union and autonomous republics and to the local soviets and by the nationwide socialist competition for a fitting welcome to the 110th anniversary of the birth of Vladimir Ilich Lenin, founder of the Communist Party and the Soviet state.

Comrades! The 35 years since the Soviet people's victory over fascism testify convincingly to the paramount importance of the struggle for peace which the party and the Soviet Government wage indefatigably. Soviet people are boundlessly grateful to the CPSU, its Central Committee and Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, the acknowledged standard-bearer of peace, for their principle-minded peace-loving foreign policy.

In accordance with its powers, the Russian Federation Council of Ministers will do all it can for the triumph of the CPSU's peace-loving foreign policy course.

Comrade deputies, allow me once more to express our sincere gratitude for the trust shown in us and to assure the CPSU Central Committee and the RSFSR Supreme Soviet that the Government of the Russian Federation will work persistently and tenaciously for the successful implementation of the majestic plans for the building of communism.

MASHEROV ADDRESSES BELORUSSIAN SUPREME SOVIET SESSION

LD080827 [Editorial Report LD] Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 14 March 1980 carries on pages 1 and 4 a 4,000-word BELTA report, entitled "Placing All Efforts, Experience and Knowledge at the Service of the People," on the 13 March first session of the new Belorussian Supreme Soviet held in Minsk. The report deals with the election of Supreme Soviet and other organs and legislative matters. It includes the following passage:

"Deputy R.M. Masherov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Belorussian CP Central Committee, took the floor.

"The Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet of the last convocation, the ninth, and its presidium, headed by Comrade Ivan Yevteyevich Polyakov, he said, worked actively and purposefully and tackled important, topical matters of state, economic and sociocultural building.

"Therefore, permit me, on behalf of the Belorussian CP Central Committee, first of all to thank the deputies of the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet of the last convocation and to express deepest appreciation to its presidium.

"I would also like to warmly and cordially congratulate all deputies on their election to the new Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet and wish them successes in discharging their important state and social duties as fully-fledged representatives of the people in the republic's supreme organ of state power, in the hope that in all their activity they will justify the voters' confidence and always be able to meet the demands of party and people.

"The Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium of the 10th Convocation and its presidium, which we are about to elect, are faced with even more crucial and even bigger tasks. They stem from the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the fundamental guidelines laid down in the speeches by Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

"Permit me to express confidence that the republic's Supreme Soviet, its organs and all its deputies will actively and responsibly exercise their great authority and honorably justify the people's confidence.

"Esteemed comrade deputies! I submit for your examination the proposal of the Belorussian CP Central Committee, supported by the party group and the Supreme Soviet Council of Elders, on the reelection of Comrade Ivan Yevteyevich Polyakov as chairman of the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium."

ESTONIAN CP CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM NOTED

LD081549 Tallinn SOVETSKAYA ESTONIYA in Russian 28 Mar 80 p 1 LD

[ETA "Information Report" on Estonian CP Central Committee plenum]

[Text] A routine Estonian CP Central Committee plenum was held in Tallinn on 27 March.

The plenum was opened by Comrade K. Vayno, first secretary of the Estonian CP Central Committee.

The plenum examined the question "Of the Tasks of the Republic's Party, Economic and Public Organizations in Insuring the Fulfillment of the CPSU Central Committee Resolution 'On the Experience of the Work of the Estonian SSR's Fuel and Energy Enterprises in the Comprehensive Utilization of Oil Shale in the National Economy.'"

Comrade K. Vayno, secretary of the Estonian CP Central Committee, delivered a report.

Taking part in the debates were: Comrade Ye. Filatov, first secretary of the Kokhtla-Yarva Gorkom; Comrade K. Senchugov, director of the Estonian imeni 50-Letiya SSSR GRES; Hero of Socialist Labor Comrade A. Pertel, leader of a team of face workers at the Estoniya mine; Comrade K. Rebane, president of the Estonian SSR Academy of Sciences; Comrade N. Serebryannikov, director of the V.I. Lenin Slantsekhim Production Association; and Comrade Yu. Tambet, general director of the Estonslanets Production Association.

A relevant resolution was adopted on the question under discussion. The plenum also examined questions relating to the First Session of the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet of the 10th Convocation. Comrade K. Vayno delivered a speech on this issue. The plenum approved the Estonian CP Central Committee Bureau's proposals on organizational questions relating to the first session of the Estonian SSR Supreme Soviet.

The Estonian CP Central Committee plenum released Comrade V. Vyalyas from his duties as secretary of the Estonian CP Central Committee and member of the Estonian CP Central Committee Bureau in connection with his transfer to diplomatic work. Comrade R. Ristlaan, who formerly worked as chief of the Estonian CP Central Committee trade and consumer services department, was elected secretary of the Estonian CP Central Committee and member of the Estonian CP Central Committee. Comrades A. Zamakhin, V. Ilves, and V. Renserwere approved as chiefs of the Estonian CP Central Committee industry, transport and communications and general sections respectively and Comrade V. Koort was approved as Estonian CP Central Committee administrator of affairs. With that the Estonian CP Central Committee plenum concluded its work.

RASHIDOV ATTENDS UZBEK SSR SUPREME SOVIET SESSION

LD081021 [Editorial Report LD] Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 15 March 1980 carries on pages 1-4 an account of the 14 March proceedings of the republican Supreme Soviet session. The paper prints the Supreme Soviet resolutions on the composition of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, Council of Ministers, People's Control Committee, supreme courts and permanent commissions and on the election of the Supreme Soviet chairman and deputy chairman. It also publishes the apparent text of the reports by Supreme Soviet Presidium Chairman I.V. Usmankhodzhayev, Uzbekistan CP Central Committee Secretary A.A. Khodzhayev and Supreme Soviet Mandate Commission Chairman Z. Israilova. The information report states that "Sh. R. Rashidov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Uzbekistan CP Central Committee" attended the session.

TURKMENIAN CSA CHIEF RETIRES

LD081033 Ashkhbad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 21 Mar 80 p 4 LD

[Unattributed report: "Chronicle"]

[Text] By a decree of the Turkmen SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, dated March 20 1980, Comrade Aky Safarmamedov is relieved of his duties as chief of the Turkmen SSR Central Statistical Administration in connection with his retirement.

NEW KIRGIZ CULTURE MINISTER APPOINTED

LD081033 Frunze SOVETSKAYA KIRGIZIYA in Russian 21 Mar 80 p 2 LD

[Kirgiz SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decree: "On the Appointment of Comrade Nusupova as Minister of Culture of the Kirgiz SSR"]

[Text] The Kirgiz SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decrees that Comrade Dzhumagul Nusupova be appointed Kirgiz SSR minister of culture.

[Signed] A. Duysheyev, chairman of the Kirgiz SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. Zh. Tumenbayeva, secretary of the Kirgiz SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Frunze 20 March 1980.

PRAVDA ON IMPORTANCE OF INDUSTRIAL HEALTH SAFETY WORK

LD081009 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Mar 80 p 1 LD

[Editorial: "Guarding the Health of Millions"]

[Excerpt] Sanitary order is not insured at the required standard everywhere. The hygienic standard of, for example, a whole series in the food industry and public catering enterprises and food stores leaves something to be desired, and you still encounter instances when rules for the upkeep of catering facilities at children's institutions are broken and sovkhozes and kolkhozes deliver contaminated produce for processing. Of course this cannot be tolerated.

It is known what great harm industrial waste discharged into the atmosphere does to population centers. Enterprises have considerable potential for reducing it if they concern themselves with this matter constantly and persistently. Unfortunately in some places people are not hurrying to resolve this problem. Only after 1980 are there plans to trap 30 percent of this waste at enterprises in the food and aviation industries, while the figures for enterprises of the Ministry of Machine Building for the Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances, the Ministry of the Petroleum Industry and the Ministry of the Meat and Dairy Industry are even lower: 26, 21 and 15 percent respectively. It is essential to commission purification installations at a faster rate. The quality of planning of industrial and agricultural enterprises should also be raised. A check has established that approximately 30 percent of all design plans deviate from the sanitary norms and demands, because of which they are rejected by the sanitary-epidemiological stations when the plans are being coordinated.

In accordance with our legislation every department, enterprise and establishment bears full responsibility in its own sector for taking measures to protect the population's health. But the responsibility of sanitary inspection collectives is just as great--they have an organizing and monitoring role here.

For example, the Georgian SSR Ministry of Health has long been demanding that the director of the USSR Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy's Zestafoni ferroalloy plant should take the decisive steps essential to improve labor conditions there and avoid polluting the environment. Nevertheless industrial executives remained deaf to these calls. Correct action was taken by the republic's chief state sanitary inspector when he recently decided to make use of the great rights which the law has given him. He ordered certain subunits of the enterprise to be closed. And here is another example. For over 15 years doctors have been striving to stop the operation of the Zhdanov ultramarine plant, which does not meet sanitary requirements. But the plant is continuing to operate as if nothing had happened.

Such incidents are evidence that hygienists do not meet with the due support everywhere. Economic organs have a duty to react punctiliously and quickly to their recommendations and orders. In their turn sanitary-epidemiological station workers should persistently strive to implement health protection measures, and local party and soviet organs have a duty to give all-round support to the sanitary inspectors' noble activity.

The intensification of technological processes in the national economy, the widespread utilization of electromagnetic and other kinds of radiation and the utilization in production and everyday life of previously unknown substances and materials--all this requires an increase in the level of monitoring of people's labor, everyday life and leisure conditions. A number of current sanitary norms and rules are in need of improvement and new ones must be elaborated. The metrological backup forthe sanitary-epidemiological service should be improved.

In certain republics and oblasts the regional sanitary-epidemiological services are pooling their forces and resources and creating comprehensive specialized laboratories. This permits the acquisition and skilled utilization of expensive equipment and an improvement in the quality of control measurements and labor productivity. However the supply to hygienists of instruments and apparatus on the whole still falls short of their needs and requirements. Only 10 percent of their claims for some of them are being satisfied and sometimes they are not fulfilled at all.

PRICE OFFICIAL DISCUSSES PRICE SETTING CONFERENCE

LD082222 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1700 GMT 8 Apr 80 LD

[Text] The all-union conference on questions of price setting ended in Moscow today. Here is a conversation our correspondent held with Nikolay Timofeyevich Glushkov, chairman of the USSR State Committee on Prices: [begin recording]

[Glushkov] The all-union conference made a critical review of questions concerned with prices for new products, primarily in the engineering field. We assume that the deficiencies existing in this matter, when prices do not always facilitate the creation of high-productivity equipment, will be practically eliminated in work. Jointly with ministries and departments we will in the very near future be issuing a new method for fixing prices for new products.

[Correspondent] Nikolay Timofeyevich, which questions are now the chief ones in the work of the price setting bodies?

[Glushkov] The party Central Committee and the Soviet Government have charged us, jointly with ministries and departments, with carrying out this year a review of wholesale prices and tariffs in industry. And of course it is very important that this latest review of wholesale prices and tariffs in industry should not to any extent affect the existing level of retail prices. If we are to speak of what changes will be brought about by the new prices then I would say, in short, that prices will to a greater extent correspond to the qualitative demands for products and machinery.

Great attention was paid to the working out of prices on products of the fuel and power complex, in particular on coal. As is known, in the main coal-extracting areas today coal prices do not make for profitable operation of enterprices, all the more so since they are affected by natural factors. The new coal prices will make for profitable operation in practically all areas of the country. The new prices envisage a much higher degree of profitability on the extraction of Ekibastuz and Kansk-Achinsk coals, which, as is known, are mined by open-cast methods and are the cheapest energy fuel. The prices of these are five or six times lower than those of coal mined underground.

We put in quite a lot of serious work in drawing up new tariffs for electrical and thermal power. These tariffs provide for much more favorable conditions for the development of power-intensive industries in those areas of the country where cheap sources of fuel, primarily coal, are available. It must be said that in the central areas of the country, where as a rule fuel has to be brought in from outside, the electricity tariff stands at 18 kopeks for 10 kwh, while in Krasnoyarsk and Bratsk it is 8.5 kopeks, that is less than half.

I should also say that the prices envisage incentives for the production of the most economic types of rolled metal, both ferrous and nonferrous. For instance, the price of metal strip as compared with shaped metal will be 20 or 25 percent lower. In our opinion this will provide incentive for the use in engineering and building of the most progressive and resource-saving technology, namely, welding and stamping. In the first quarter of next year all enterprises and organizations will be supplied with pricelists. [end recording]

PETROLEUM REFINING MINISTER VISITS AZERBAIJAN

LD081017 Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 15 Mar 80 p 1 LD

[AZERINFORM report: "Comrade V.S. Fedorov's Stay in Azerbaijan"]

[Text] Comrade V.S. Fedorov, USSR minister of the petroleum refining and petrochemical industry was in the republic from 11-14 March this year. He visited the Vladimir Ilich Novabakinskiy oil refinery, the Baku XXII Syezd KPSS oil refinery and other oil refining enterprises, the Baku tire plant, the synthetic rubber plant in Sumgait and the Baku domestic air-conditioner plant.

The minister familiarized himself with the work of enterprises, installations and production facilities and talked with workers and specialists. Particular attention was paid to the development prospects of the petroleum refining and petrochemical industry in the republic and to raising the production efficiency and output quality. In this connection a number of specific problems of accelerating the modernization of petroleum refining plants, constructing an ethylene complex in Sumgait, improving working and everyday conditions and building housing and social projects, were examined and resolved with the participation of the leaders of the union main administrations and associations who arrived with Comrade Fedorov.

At the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee on 14 March Comrade F.S. Fedorov, USSR minister of petroleum refining and the petrochemical industry, communicated his impressions of his tour of the Baku Sumgait enterprises, noted the successes achieved and announced the measures which are planned for the completion of the fundamental modernization of the Azerbaijan petroleum refining and petrochemical industry in the 11th 5-Year Plan.

Comrade G.A. Aliyev, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee, noted that over the years of the 9th and 10th 5-Year plans a large amount of work has been done in the republic in improving the technical equipping of enterprises of the petroleum refining and petrochemical industry. At the same time he indicated the need to elaborate a strategy and tactics for the development of the sector in the 11th 5-Year Plan and in the longer term. Comrade G.A. Aliyev expressed gratitude to the USSR Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry and to Comrade V.S. Fedorov personally for the help given to the republic's enterprises.

The following took part in the discussion of the questions: A.I. Ibragimov, chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers; G.N. Seidov, secretary of the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee; S.B. Tatliyev, first deputy chairman of the Azerbaijan SSR Council of Ministers; B.I. Boykov, CPSU Central Committee executive; V.L. Pyatibrat USSR deputy minister of industrial construction; F.D. Rustambekova, first deputy chairman of the republic's Gosplan; N.M. Aliyev, Azerbaijan SSR minister of the petroleum refining and petrochemical industry; and A.I. Kulikov, deputy chief of the Azerbaijan CP Central Committee Chemical and Oil Industry Department.

PRAVDA ON POWER FROM KAMCHATKA GEOTHERMAL WATERS

LD090851 [Editorial Report LD] Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 April 1980 publishes on page 3 a 1,500-word article by P. Zinovyev, secretary of the Kamchatskiy CPSU Obkom, under the rubric "In the Front Lines of the Power Industry;": "Heat From Kamchatka."

The article outlines developments in the utilization of Kamchatka's geothermal waters as a source of power, stating that "by the year 2000 the peninsula could successfully cover its own requirements by means of constructing thermal power stations based on the major deposits of thermal waters." Zinovyev outlines the main problems involved and notes the need for further efforts in this direction.

OPERATIONS STAFF COMPLAINS ABOUT SUPPLY OF PARTS, FUEL

LD032104 Mosocw Domestic Service in Russian 1600 GMT 3 Apr 80 LD

[Text] A routine meeting of the all-union operations staff for material and technial supplies to agriculture took place today. There was discussion about the flow of supplies to kolkhozes and sovkhozes to provide for the sowing season. Special attention was paid to deliveries of spare parts for K-700 tractors. In the RSFSR, Kazakhstan and other union republics 24,000 of these powerful tractors are unable to leave the workshops. Their repair is being held up by suppliers of spare parts--the Yaroslavl Avtodizel Association, the Leningrad Krasnyy Treugolnik Association and several others. This year the collective of the Leningrad Kirovskiy Zavod Association began to work more rhythmically but this has not yet reduced the tight situation; the great backlog of undersupplied spare parts in the past 2 years is still having an effect.

Great concern to the meeting participants was caused by the unsatisfactory supply of gasoline and diesel fuel to farms of Krasnodarskiy Kray, Kustanayskaya, Tselinogradskaya, Smolenskaya and other oblasts. Serious complaints were also made against the heads of a number of enterprises of the automobile construction industry, the ministries of tractor and agricultural machine building, machine building for animal husbandry and fodder production.

NEW UZBEKISTAN WATER RESOURCES CONSTRUCTION BODY

LD080815 Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 13 Mar 80 p 1 LD

[Text] Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decree on the formation of a Uzbek SSR union-republican committee for water resources construction.

The Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decrees:

That an Uzbek SSR union-republican State Committee for Water Resources Construction be formed on the basis of the Uzbek SSR Main Administration for Water Resources Construction.

[Signed] I. Usmankhodzhayev, chairman of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

For the secretary--V. Kazimov, member of the Uzbek SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Tashkent, 12 March 1980

## RADIO REPORTS AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS 7-8 APRIL

LD080422/LD090434 [Editorial Report LD] The following is a compilation of reports on agricultural developments in the USSR carried by Moscow Domestic Service in Russian on 7-8 April. Times of broadcasts are given in parentheses at the end of each item:

7 April

Agricultural aircraft have appeared over the fields of Tambovskaya Oblast, where winter grain crops are sown. Top-dressing with mineral fertilizers is under way. This will make it possible to increase each hectare's yield by an average of 3.5 quintals. Pilots have covered 450,000 hectares. In all, 1 million hectares have to be top-dressed. (0200 GMT)

In Georgia, 55,000 hectares have been sown to spring crops, more than 15 percent of area to be sown. (0530 GMT)

All rayons of Tadzhikistan are engaged in the mass sowing of cotton. So far 95,000 hectares have been sown, almost one-third of the plan. The front of fieldwork has reached the southern border of Belorussia. Brestskaya Oblast workers are cultivating the soil prior to sowing. The sowing of early bread grain crops has begun in the south of Zaporozhskaya Oblast. In the farms of the Akimskiy Rayon the first few hundred hectares of barley, oats and peas have been sown. The farms of the Ryazanskaya Non-Chernozem Zone have completed preparations for the spring sowing. In this oblast 700 mechanized ipatovskiy complexes will be working. (1000 GMT)

Chimkentskaya Oblast became on 7 April the first in Kazakhstan to complete the sowing of spring grain crops. This stage of spring work was ended twice as quickly as usual. The spring crop area in Kazakhstan has been considerably increased. Sowing is also under way in other regions of Kazakhstan. In spite of the rain, the highest rate of work has been achieved by Alma-Atinskaya and Taldy-Kurganskaya oblasts. (1300 GMT)

Despite frequent rain, the sowing of spring crops has been completed in Uzbekistan in good time. (1330 GMT)

8 April

In Tselinogradskaya Oblast moisture retention is very important and is being carried out around the clock. The basic seed variety used is Saratovskaya-29 but the area sown to (Tselinnaya-21) will be extended this year. The latter gives a better yield and is more suited to virgin land conditions. (0100 GMT)

The sowing of spring crops has been completed in Uzbekistan. Large areas of dry land in foothill regions of Dzhizakskaya, Samarkandskaya and other oblasts have been sown for the first time to new local varieties of wheat and rye. (0200 GMT)

The sowing of spring crops has been completed on farms in southern Kazakhstan. This spring the acreage sown to spring grain crops has been increased by more than 7,000 hectares. (0700 GMT)

Soil tilling machinery in Bryanskaya Oblast has been overhauled 6 weeks earlier than last year. (0700 GMT)

In Altayskiy Kray moisture retention work will begin soon. Grain crops will cover 4.6 million hectares this spring. (0900 GMT)

The mass sowing of rice has got under way in Krasnodarskiy Kray. The agricultural workers have decided this year to produce 1.1 million tons of grain crops, more than has been planned before. (1400 GMT)

SHEVARDNADZE MEETS AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT SUPPLY CHIEF

LD081305 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 20 Mar 80 p 1 LD

[GRUZINFORM report: "A Reliable Technical Arsenal for Farming"]

[Excerpt] Comrade A.A. Yezhevskiy, chairman of the USSR State Committee for the Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture [Selkhoztekhnika] has been in Georgia for a few days. Comrade A.A. Yezhevskiy looked at the work of the Gruzgoskomselkhoztekhnika [Georgian State Committee for the Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture] and held an enlarged conference which was attended by working people from the republican committee and managers of Selkhoztekhnika production associations. He rated their activity highly. At the same time, he pointed to the need to improve the machinery shift and daily output indicator and forms and methods of organizing socialist competition among machine operators for the attainment of maximum labor productivity and maximum utilization of technical potential.

Comrade A.A. Yezhevskiy had a meeting with Comrade E.A. Shevardnadze, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Georgian CP Central Committee, and members of the Georgian CP Central Committee Politburo.

Comrades E.A. Shevardnadze and A.A. Yezhevskiy; Z.A. Pataridze, chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers; D.I. Patiashvili, secretary of the Georgian CP Central Committee; D.G. Vardzelashvili, deputy chairman of the Georgian SSR Council of Ministers; and D. Ye. Sarishvili, chairman of the Georgian SSR State Committee for the Supply of Production Equipment for Agriculture, visited Goriyskiy and Abashkiy rayons where they looked at the work of Selkhoztekhnika bases and stockraising farmsteads and complexes, talked with machine operators and inquired about their labor and everyday life.

Comrade A.A. Yezhevskiy participated in a Georgian CP Central Committee Bureau session which discussed Gruzgoskomselkhoztekhnika's tasks in further strengthening technical services in the countryside and raising the standard of mechanization in the republic's agriculture in the light of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution "On Measures To Increase the Production of Southern and Subtropical Crops and Further Accelerate the Development of Agriculture in the Georgian SSR."

UZBEK WORKERS ADOPT 1980 SOCIALIST PLEDGES

LD081557 [Editorial Report LD] Tashkent PRAVDA VOSTOKA in Russian 20 March 1980 carries on pages 2-3 an unattributed report on the republican agricultural workers' 1980 socialist pledges adopted at the 15 March meeting [kurultay]. The agricultural workers have pledges to produce and sell to the state 5.85 million tons of cotton, including 355,000 tons of fine-fiber cotton, to raise the yield to 32 quintals per hectare and to machine-harvest 3.85 million tons of cotton, the report says. The report goes on to give pledges for other crops: to produce about 3 million tons of grain, including 1.35 million tons of corn and 517,000 tons of rice, and to sell to the state 1 million tons of grain (including 360,000 tons of rice). Farms will produce 288,000 tons of meat, 860,000 tons of milk and 995 million eggs, the report says, and sell to the state 260,000 tons of meat (live weight), 725,000 tons of milk and 910 million eggs. The reports say that by the end of 1980 there will be 1.6 million head of cattle in the public sector, including 448,000 cows; there will be 458,000 pigs, 6.5 million sheep and goats and 9.5 million adult birds, including 7.1 million laying hens. The report goes on to say that there will be at least 80 calves, 2,500 piglets and 119 lambs and kids per 100 dams.